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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME EIGHTEENTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL, J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON; DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW; AND ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

M,DCC,XCVI.



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		41766	1181		
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* There is a mistake in the note, p. 195, with regard to the numbers in 1755, and if the circumstance there mentioned is considered, there is reason to suppose, rather an increase, than a diminution in the number of this parish.

† The numbers in 1755, are stated p. 264, at 1346, 49 below what was then the real number.

‡ The numbers of 1755, are stated p. 618, at 5 below the number given by Dr Webster.

§ There was probably an inaccuracy in Dr Webster's number of this parish, Vide p. 646, and the diminution cannot be supposed to have greatly exceeded 130.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XVIII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF KIRKALDY.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS FLEMING.

Name, Situation.

THE *town* of Kirkaldy has been called by its preſent name, as far back as there are any records of it. It is ſuppoſed to have derived its name from the Culdees, (the Keldei as they are often called in the Old Charters), of whom it is ſaid to have been a cell *. It is ſituated in the county of

* This is Sir Robert Sibbald's derivation, in his hiſtory of Fife. The word might, with the uſual licence of etymology, be derived from the Gaelic; to which language, a great proportion of the names of places in the neighbourhood, and indeed through the whole of Fife, may unqueſtionably be traced. All names of places beginning with Bal, Col, or Cul, Dal, Drum, Dun, Inch, Inner, Auchter, Kil, Kin, Glen, Mon, and Strath, are of Gaelic origin. Thoſe beginning with Aber, and Pit, are ſuppoſed to be Pictiſh names, and do not occur beyond the territory which the Picts are thought to have inhabited.

Fife, on the Frith of Forth, about 10 miles north of Edinburgh. It is the seat of one of the four presbyteries which compose the provincial synod of Fife*; and, alternately with Cupar, the ordinary seat of the synod.

Extent.—The *parish* of Kirkaldy, so called from the town, is a kind of irregular oblong, extending from S. E. to N. W. between 2 and 3 miles, and from N. E. to S. W. about one mile. It is bounded on the S. E. by the Frith, on the N. E. by the parish of Dysart, on the N. W. by the parishes of Dysart and Achterderran, and on the S. W. by the parish of Abbotshall.

This last parish, with the exception of 3 farms which belonged to Kinghorn †, was originally a part of the parsonage of Kirkaldy. In 1649, the presbytery on an application from the heritors, found that a new kirk should be erected in the parish of Kirkaldy, for the accommodation of the parishioners; and recommended to the Commissioners of the Parliament for surrenders and tythes, to carry the erection into effect. The next year, the new parish of Kirkaldy, since called *Abbotshall* was erected; and the parish of Kirkaldy proper, has from that time been confined nearly to the burgh, the burgh acres, and the common land and moor; comprehending, in all, an extent of about 870 Scotch acres.

Aspect of the town.—The town of Kirkaldy is situated at the foot of a bank, on the sea-shore, along which it stretches the whole breadth of the parish. It is properly but one long street, with a few lanes of small extent opening on each side of it. The principal part of the street appears to have been originally wider than it is now, many of the houses on both sides

* The other three are, Cupar, St. Andrews, and Dunfermling.

† Easter and Wester Touchs, and West Bogie.

ſides of it ſhewing *internal evidence* *, that they have at ſome time or other been extended beyond their firſt limits, and that the property of individuals has been enlarged by encroachments on that of the community. At preſent, the ſtreet is narrow, in ſome places inconveniently ſo; winding and irregular; deformed by the frequent projection of contiguous houſes and ſtairs; and as the traveller daily feels, wretchedly paved †. The houſes are in general mean, aukwardly placed with their ends to the ſtreets, and conſtructed without any regard to order or uniformity. Of late, however, a better ſtile of building has begun to be introduced; and different ſpecimens have been given of an improving taſte in architecture.

Public Buildings, Town-houſe.—The only public buildings worthy of notice are, the town-houſe and the church. The town-houſe, which was rebuilt in 1678, ſtands near the middle of the town, and contains the hall in which the magiſtrates and council aſſemble for conducting the ordinary buſineſs of the burgh. Here too the baillies hold a weekly court for judging in queſtions between the burgeſſes; and the juſtices of the peace have occaſional meetings for determining queſtions of revenue, and diſcuſſing petty cauſes that are brought before them from the ſurrounding diſtrict. Over the town-houſe is the priſon, with ſeparate apartments for debtors and criminals; and under it the guard-houſe, the meal-market, and the public weigh-houſe. The whole forms a plain building of hewn-ſtone, ornamented with a tower and

* Strong beams run along the roofs of the rooms, to ſupport the place of the front wall, which has been brought forward to increaſe the width of the houſes.

† The ſtatute labour of the town is now converted, and the produce left to accumulate for new paving the ſtreets. Ruinous houſes are in ſome inſtances rebuilding at ſuch a diſtance from the ſtreet, as to leave it of a decent width.

ſpire. The tower contains the town-clock and bell, and ſerves as a repoſitory for the archives of the burgh.

The Church.—The church ſtands on an elevated ſituation, on the top of the bank, which riſes immediately behind the town. It is a large unſhapely pile, that ſeems to have been reared at different times, to ſuit the growing population of the pariſh, and in the conſtruction of which convenience has been more conſulted than unity of deſign or beauty. The nave or body of the church, is in the antient Gothic, or rather the Norman ſtile of architecture; without buttreſſes; with low ſemicircular arches, ſupported by ſhort thick columns, and having aiſles behind them. The choir is fitted up in common with the nave for the reception of the pariſhioners; and a large wing has been added for their farther accommodation. Cloſe to one end of the church ſtands the ſteeple; which in its original form was a plain, and not unhandſome ſquare tower with a cornice, above which it was covered with a roof. But it has been raiſed beyond its original height, by the addition of a ſmaller, and a very diſproportionate tower, terminating in a pyramid.

The Sands.—On the one ſide of the town, the ſea is ſeparated from it by a beach of firm and level ſand; on which the inhabitants have always, excepting at the height of the tide, a ſafe and agreeable walk; and by which the traveller may generally avoid the uneaſy jolting of a long and rugged pavement. As the ſand continues firm and ſmooth, and the ground ſhelves gradually for a great way into the ſea, this place is peculiarly favourable for ſea bathing; for which purpoſe there has been for ſome years an increaſing reſort to it, during the months of ſummer and harveſt.

Aſpect

Aſpect of the Pariſh.——On the other ſide of the town, the country immediately joins it, and riſes by a gentle but varied aſcent, almoſt to the oppoſite extremity of the pariſh.——— Taking the pariſh by itſelf, the face of it preſents little to the view that claims particular notice. In the vicinity of the town, where the ſoil is light and dry, and very ſuſceptible of cultivation, the fields are in general incloſed, and in a regular courſe of tillage; and exhibit an appearance in no ſmall degree pleaſing.——Farther back, the ground has been more recently brought into culture; and the ſoil appears to be leſs kindly in its nature, and leſs ſuſceptible of improvement. But an extenſive proprietor, Mr Oſwald of Dunnikeer, having now built a manſion houſe on a fine commanding ſite, in the center of the grounds which are at preſent the leaſt cultivated *, the plan of cultivation and of ornament which he has begun, will ſoon improve the appearance of that part of the pariſh. In the proſpect of building, that gentleman ſometime ago incloſed and planted a romantic valley, which ſtretches from the eaſt end of Kirkaldy towards the ſite of his new houſe. This valley is now beginning to be cloſely and beautifully wooded: Fanciful walks, partly of turf, and partly of gravel, are cut through it in different directions. To theſe the more reſpectable inhabitants of the town are indulged with acceſs; and enjoy in this reſpect an advantage which the vicinity of few towns can furniſh.

Relative Situation.—If this pariſh, taken by itſelf, affords but little to admire in its general appearance, the defect is abundantly ſupplied by its relative ſituation.—Commanding from different points, a full proſpect of the adjacent country, from Dyſart on the eaſt, to the green-toped hills of Glaſsmount

* The Burgh moor.

Glasmount on the west; and the eye embracing within that range the prosperous town of Path-head, with the once royal castle of Ravensheugh *, seated on a cliff overhanging the sea; the town and harbour of Kirkaldy; the industrious town of Linktown, with the modern church of Abbotshall; the high-placed mansion, the picturesque grounds, and the extensive improvements, of Mr Ferguson of Raith;—and having extended before it the Frith of Forth, skirted by the coast of Lothian from Edinburgh to North-Berwick, diversified by the islands of Inch-Keith, Bass, and May, and enlivened by a constant succession of ships of all burdens, passing and repassing on their destined voyages:—The parish of Kirkaldy thus situated, forms part of a scene, in which the beauties of external nature, and interesting displays of the operation of mind, are in no ordinary degree united.

Air and Climate.—Ascending N. W. from the head of the bay which is called by its name, this parish lies much exposed to the easterly winds. These, especially during the latter part of spring, blow frequently, and bring up from the sea, a thick disagreeable haze, that renders the air moist and piercingly cold. But as the westerly winds prevail, during at least two thirds of the year, the air is upon the whole dry, kindly and wholesome.

Diseases.—It may be owing partly to this cause, that there are few diseases which can properly be said to prevail here; and that even these few are seldom marked with any peculiar symptoms of violence. The most prevalent disease is the chronic rheumatism, which chiefly affects the aged, and even these chiefly among those classes which are exposed to hard labour

* Or Ravenscraig.——See account of Dysart.

labour in the open air. A ſpecies of fever with nervous ſymptoms, but of no diſtinct or regular type, has ſome years been frequent, particularly in the beginning of winter, and in ſpring. Children have been more ſubject to it than adults. Children are frequently and fatally affected by the diſeaſe which is called the croup. Inſtances of conſumptions now and then occur, chiefly in young females. The palſy, which not long ago was ſo rare, as to have been vulgarly accounted a ſpecial viſitation of God, is now by no means uncommon. Scrophulous taints are not much known here; and the meaſles, ſmall-pox, and other epidemical eruptives are obſerved to be uſually milder than even in the neighbouring pariſhes. Innoculation for the ſmall-pox is practiſed with the happieſt effect. The religious ſcruples, which long prevented the general uſe of this ſalutary invention, are every day diminiſhing; the body of the people yielding to the impreſſion of that convincing atteſtation in favour of it, which Divine Providence has given in its ſignal ſucceſs.

Longevity.—The inhabitants in general are healthy; and many of them attain a good old age. It is no unſatisfying proof of this, that in four years preceeding 1793, there lived in the pariſh 47 perſons who reached the age of 80, the full half of which number were alive at one time; that in five years preceding 1791, four inſtances occurred in which the marriage relation had ſubſiſted above half a century; and that on an average of 14 years preceding 1788, the annual burials were but as 1 to 59 of the population.

Population.—On the firſt day of January 1790, there were in the town of Kirkaldy 646 families, containing 2607 ſouls; in the country pariſh, 15 families, containing 66 ſouls; in the

the whole pariſh, 661 families, containing 2673 ſouls*: of whom 521 were under, and 2152 above, 8 years of age.—Of thoſe who were above that age, 908 were males, and 1244 females. The proportion of ſouls to a family was $4\frac{1}{61}$ in the town, $4\frac{3}{7}$ in the country, $4\frac{1}{8}$ in the whole pariſh.

Diviſion of the Inhabitants in 1790.—The inhabitants, reckoning thoſe only who had families, or who did buſineſs on their own account, were in general divided in the following manner:

Proprietors reſiding	7	Saddler	1
——— non-reſiding*	4	Candlemaker	1
Miniſters	2	Sellers of ſtone ware	4
Preachers	2	Keepers of inns and licenſed houſes for ale and ſpirits	31
Merchants, traders, and ſhopkeepers	36	Brewers	2
Seafaring men	34	Smiths and founders	10
Farmers, who have no other employment	2	Watchmakers	3
Medical men	5	Maſons and plaſterers	19
Officers who have ſerved in the navy	5	Houſe carpenters	25
Do. who have ſerved in the army	4	Ship carpenters	7
Officers of the cuſtoms and ſalt office	11	Coopers	2
Officers of exciſe	3	Painters	2
Writers	4	Weavers	56
Bookſeller	1	Stocking weavers	4
Schoolmaſters	3	Dyers	4
		Hecklers	9
		Tanners and curriers	8
		Shoemakers	13
		Taylors	

* The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755 made the population 2296.

† Beſides there are 3 corporate bodies which have property.

Tailors	10	Male farm ſervants	14
Salters	2	Female do.	3
Glover	1	Female teachers	5
Butchers	4	Mantua-makers	4
Bakers	12	Milleners	4
Barbers	4	Midwives	3
Cork-cutters	2	Widows with families	73
Gardeners	7	Single houſeholders, chiefly females	70
Carters, many of whom occupy a few acres of land	30	Young perſons of both ſexes at ſchool, about	250
Carriers	3	—— at the univerſity	2
Land labourers and hired ſervants with families	61	Merchants clerks, not apprentices	9
Male domeſtic ſervants	8		
Female do.	217		

In this table, the diſtinctions are not always preciſe. The claſs of merchants includes the principal manufacturers. Some of the ſhop-keepers have other employments, and are introduced under other names. The farmers inſerted are thoſe only who have no other ſpecific character.

State of Huſbandry.—Of thoſe who are more or leſs engaged in huſbandry, the whole number, including 5 proprietors, is 25. Many of theſe occupy but a few acres, which they cultivate for the ſake of accommodation more than of gain. This circumſtance is not favourable to good huſbandry. The ſpring of intereſt is too ſlightly touched, to produce that regular exertion which is neceſſary to ſucceſs.

Some other object engages the firſt care; and the few acres are neglected. At any rate, if they anſwer the purpoſe of convenience for which they are held, the melioration of them is little attended to. This, however, is not always the caſe. Some who occupy ſmall portions of land, have been

at pains to improve them. And the land which is poſſeſſed in any conſiderable quantity, is in general cultivated with attention and ſucceſs.

Means of cultivation.—The means of cultivation are here obtained with little difficulty. The ſtables and ſtreets of the town afford a regular ſupply of manure; but what is collected from the ſtreets is leſs valuable, on account of a mixture of ſand which it receives from the houſes of the ordinary claſs of inhabitants, whoſe floors are frequently covered with it.—— Lime is to be had at a ſhort diſtance, and at a moderate expence; but it has hitherto been ſparingly uſed, particularly on the lands lying neareſt to the town; in the idea that the ſoil is too light and warm to permit it to be uſed with ſafety. Sea-weeds furniſh an occaſional acceſſion of valuable manure, but in a quantity that bears no proportion to the extenſive demand for it.

Improvements in Huſbandry.—The mode of culture has of late undergone ſome important alterations. The *tillage* is improved; to which drilling and hoeing, now much uſed in all crops, have not a little contributed. Green crops are introduced; and the proportion of land employed in them is every year increaſing. The *rotation* of crops is better regulated; the alternate ſucceſſion of culmiferous and leguminous crops being pretty generally attended to. The *implements* of huſbandry are improved; particularly the plough. Of this valuable inſtrument, two kinds are employed; the common Scotch plough, which begins to be better conſtructed than formerly, and the chain plough introduced by Small of Blackadder-mount. The former is ſtill the moſt prevalent; for of 24 ploughs uſed in the pariſh, 17 are of this kind, and 7 of the other. The ploughs are all drawn by horſes, generally

two

two in each, guided by the ploughman. Oxen, though equally adapted to the purpoſes of huſbandry when managed with ſkill, though leſs expenſive in the purchaſe and the maintenance, though equally, if not more durable, and though vaſtly more valuable, when unfit for work, are here in total diſuſe; and nearly ſo in the whole ſurrounding diſtrict.

Cattle and Carriages.—The number of horſes employed in the pariſh is 139; of which 94 are kept for work, 28 for the ſaddle, and 17 for carriages. The carriages are 9 in number *, 2 coaches and 7 poſt-chaiſes. Of theſe a coach, and 5 chaiſes are kept for hire. The number of carts is 73. The number of milk-cows is 98. Some individuals have been at pains to improve their breed of cows, and with good ſucceſs. But cows are here kept leſs for breeding than for their milk, which is ſold in the town with great advantage. They are commonly fed in the houſe; the land near the town being too valuable to permit much of it to be employed in paſture.

Rent.—The rent of land, ſituated near the town, runs from three to four pounds the acre; and decreaſes, with the diſtance, down to half a guinea. As the greater part of the pariſh is cultivated by proprietors, the rent of the whole cannot be certainly known: but it is computed at L. 1250 ſterling; which is to L. 1320 Scots, the valued rent, nearly as 11 to 1. There is no map of the pariſh; but moſt of it has been ſurveyed: and the whole, excluſive of the ground covered by the town, extends to about 830 acres. Of theſe about 10

 acres

* Since the above was written, the number of carriages has diminiſhed two thirds.

acres are moſs, 11 waſte-land and roads, 130 planted, 327 ſown out in paſture, 32 garden ground, and 270 in tillage.

Crops, and times of Sowing and Reaping.—The crops uſually raiſed on the land in tillage are; *wheat*, ſown from the beginning of October to the end of November, and reaped from the 12th to the end of Auguſt;—*barley*, ſown from the 1ſt to the 20th May, and reaped from the middle of Auguſt to the beginning of October;—*oats*, ſown from the 20th March to the 20th April, and reaped from the 20th Auguſt to the beginning of October;—*beans*, ſown from the 10th to the 20th March, and reaped from the 12th September to the 12th of October;—*potatoes*, planted from the 20th April to the beginning of May, and dug up from the 12th to the end of October;—*turnips*, commonly ſown about the 20th June;—*clover*, and generally a ſmall proportion of rye-graſs with it, ſown from the 20th April to the end of May; and always ſown with grain, which is ſometimes wheat, ſometimes oats, but oftenеſt barley.

Produce and Value.—The following table will ſhew the proportions in which theſe ſeveral crops were raiſed in 1792, with the value of the produce, eſtimated on the average of the ſeven preceeding years.

TABLE

TABLE of CROPS in 1792.

Crops.	Acres under each crop.	Bolls produced per acre.	Average value of the boll.	Total value per acre.	Total bolls produced.	Total value.
			L. s. d	L. s. d.		L. s.
Wheat,	13	10	1 1	10 10	130	136 10
Barley,	72	9	0 15	6 15	648	486 0
Oats,	54	8	0 12	4 16	432	259 4
Beans,	24	9	0 12 6	6	216	135 0
Potatoes,	35	50	0 5 0	12 10	1750	137 10
Turnip,	25			8		200 0
Clover,	47			3		376 0
327 Acres of ſown graſs uſed in paſture at L. 1 per acre.						327
Many of the inhabitants have ſmall gardens adjoining to their houſes. Theſe may amount together to 20 acres, and the annual produce of them may be eſtimated at L. 10 per acre; the whole,						200
There are 12 acres of garden ground cultivated for ſale, the produce of which may be eſtimated at L. 20 per acre.						240
Total groſs value of the annual produce of the ground						2497 4
From which deduce $\frac{3}{8}$ for the expence of ſeed, labour, and manures, - -						936 9
Free produce, including the rent,						1560 15

Minerals.—Beſides the produce of the ſurface of the ground, this pariſh yields free-ſtone, iron-ſtone, and pit-coal. At preſent, however, there is little or no increaſe of value derived from theſe ſources. The *free-ſtone* is dug merely for the uſe of the pariſh *. The *iron ſtone* is found in the coal-pits, and the working of it depends on that of the coal. Different ſeams

* The pariſh does not furniſh all the ſtones that are employed in uilding. The beſt houſes are built from the quarries of Bruntiſland, Long-Annet, or Culello;—which laſt, though but lately opened, promiſes, on account of its ſuperior texture, colour, and ſolidity, to be in much requeſt.

seams of coal from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{4}$ feet thick were formerly wrought; but they have for sometime been exhausted above the draining level. They continue, and are supposed to be more valuable, below the level; but the expence of machinery for draining, has hitherto prevented the working of them.——At present, the inhabitants are supplied from the coaleries of Dysart, belonging to Sir James St. Clair Erskine, or of Cluny, belonging to Mr Ferguson of Raith. The former is distant from Kirkaldy about 2 miles, the latter about 4. At the former, 2 *metes*, about $9\frac{1}{2}$ cwt of small coals or *chews*, the kind generally used for home consumption, are sold for 2s. 1d. and the expence of carriage to Kirkaldy is 1s: At the latter, 3 *loads*, weighing about $9\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. are sold at 1s. 6d. and the expence of carriage is 2s. There is a depot of Cluny coals kept at Kirkaldy for exportation; from which about 600 tons have been annually shipped during the last 5 or 6 years, partly for Hamburgh, but chiefly for Middleburg, where the Cluny *splint* is said to have the preference of every other species of Scotch coal. As there is now a turnpike road from Cluny to this place, it is probable that the quantity of coal exported from it will increase.

Turnpikes.—Turnpikes begin to be generally introduced in this part of the county. The erection of toll-bars, and the imposition of the highest toll which the law permits to be exacted before a foot of road was made, excited at first, a prejudice against them. But in proportion as the roads have been put in repair, the prejudice has abated: And there can be no doubt, that if the interest of the public is sufficiently consulted in fixing the courses of the roads, the introduction of turnpikes will, on the whole, be beneficial *.

History

* By an act of Parliament, for making and repairing roads in the county of Fife, the trustees appointed to carry it into execution are impowered, inter alia,

Hiſtory of the Burgh.—It is probable that the local advantages of vicinity to fuel, to land capable of producing grain, and above all to the ſea, ſo favourable to ſubſiſtence and ſo neceſſary to commerce, brought men at firſt to ſettle at this place. It is not known, however, at what particular time the town was built; nor are there any traces of its hiſtory before it became one of the regality burghs of the lordſhip of Dunfermling. It was mortified A. D. 1334, by David II. to the

alia, "to widen the roads to any breadth they ſhall think proper, not exceeding 40 feet; and for that purpoſe to pull down and demoliſh any houſe or "building, as well *within* royal burghs as without the ſame; paying ſuch damages to the owners or occupiers, as the *ſaid truſtees* ſhall judge reaſonable."

Theſe powers are complained of: 1ſt, As unprecedented and unknown in the other counties: 2d, As trenching on the chartered rights of royal burghs; the internal government of which is, by charters ratified by parliament, veſted in their own proper magiſtrates: 3d, As affecting the ſecurity of private property, which is thus left, in certain circumſtances, to be ſeized without the conſent of the owner, and without any other compenſation to him, than what the very perſons who are to ſeize on it *judge reaſonable*. It is true, there lies an appeal on the value of the property to the Juſtices of the Peace in their general ſeſſions. But as the Juſtices are truſtees, and in point of influence, the principal truſtees under the road act, the appeal is nearly from *one* deſcription to another deſcription of the ſame perſons. If the public convenience at times require that the property of individuals ſhould be ſacrificed to it; juſtice ſurely requires that thoſe, whoſe property is affected, ſhould be fully indemnified, and that too in the way in which they are moſt likely to be ſatisfied that the indemnification is adequate,——the verdict of a jury.

The conſideration of the effect which the powers conveyed by the act alluded to might, if exerciſed to their full extent, produce on Kirkaldy, has given riſe to theſe reflections. Kirkaldy is properly but one long ſtreet, through which the great county road at preſent paſſes. As the greater part of this ſtreet is under 40 feet broad, the truſtees have it in their power, if *they ſhall think proper*, to bring it to the full ſtatutory breadth, at the expence of half a mile of demoliſhed houſes; the owners of which would be obliged to reſt ſatisfied with what damages the truſtees, or in the laſt reſort, the juſtices, ſhould think reaſonable.

the abbots of Dunfermling ſucceſſively; in whoſe poſſeſſion it continued till A. D. 1450, when the commendator and convent, by indentures made with the baillies and community of Kirkaldy, diſponed to them and their ſucceſſors for ever, the burgh and harbour, burgh acres, the ſmall cuſtoms, common paſture in the moor, courts, &c.

Chartered Privileges.—It was ſoon after erected into a royal burgh, with the cuſtomary privileges: And theſe were ſpecifically ratified by a charter of confirmation granted by Charles I. in 1644; and the burgh, *for good and gratuitous ſervice* done by it, erected *de novo* into a free royal burgh and free port, and new and larger immunities granted it. Among its privileges were enumerated, the powers expreſsly given to the baillies, counſellors and community, of electing and conſtituting annual magiſtrates for the adminiſtration of juſtice and the government of the burgh; of uplifting cuſtoms and applying them to the public good; of holding courts; of ſeizing and incarcerating, and puniſhing delinquents; with which were conjoined various other privileges expreſſed in the barbarous language, and ſome of them conceived in the barbarous ſpirit of the times; ſuch as herezelds, bludewits, merchetæ mulierum, fork, foſs, ſok, ſak, thoill, thame, wraick, vert, weth, wair, venyſon, infangtheif, outfangtheif, pit and gallows, &c. *.

Though there be no authentic record of the ſtate of Kirkaldy, at the time it was disjoined from the lordſhip of Dunfermling, or firſt erected unto a royal burgh, it may be warrantably ſuppoſed, that before either of theſe events could happen, the place muſt have attained to ſome importance. Previous to the union of Scotland with England, its commerce and

* Charter of confirmation.

and navigation were in a great meaſure confined to the towns which lay on both ſides of the Frith of Forth. Theſe had early applied themſelves to the buſineſs of fiſhing *, which their favourable ſituation enabled them to proſecute with vigour and ſucceſs. And ſo diſtinguiſhed were thoſe of them eſpecially which lay on the north ſide of the frith, that when James VI. in 1602 planted a colony in Lewis, to introduce the fiſhing trade among the Weſtern iſlands, the colony was drawn from the coaſts of Fife †. The towns on the Frith of Forth too had almoſt the excluſive poſſeſſion of the trade with the Low Countries, at that time the only branch of commerce of any importance, and were carriers for nearly the whole of the northern part of the United Kingdom.

State in 1644.——Of the advantages derived from both theſe branches of commerce, Kirkaldy appears to have enjoyed a principal ſhare. Tradition relates that, when Charles I. erected it anew into a royal burgh in 1644, it had an hundred ſail of ſhips belonging to it. And the tradition is ſupported, by an authentic account, preſerved among the records of the burgh, of loſſes ſuſtained betwixt that time and the Reſtoration. From this account, in which the maſter's name, and the ſeparate value of each ſhip are particularly ſpecified, it appears, that 94 ſhips belonging to this port, were during that period either loſt at ſea, or taken by the enemy.

There are other circumſtances too, which ſerve to ſhew

* As early as the ninth century, the inhabitants of the Netherlands reſorted to the coaſts of Scotland, to purchaſe ſalted fiſh from the natives; of whom they learned the trade, which the Dutch have ſince purſued with ſo much national advantage.——Anderſon's Hiſtory of Commerce.

† Robertſon's Hiſtory of Scotland.

that, during a conſiderable part of the laſt century, Kirkaldy was in a very flouriſhing ſtate.

Early Population.——1. The population of the pariſh was equal, or moſt probably ſuperior, to what it is at preſent. During a period of 14 years, commencing with 1616, the yearly average of regiſtered births was 121; which would make the population, computing it as 26 to 1 of the births, to have been 3146. For ſome time after, the numbers appear to have increaſed rapidly. In 1643 the accommodation of the pariſh required a new wing to be added to the church; and in 1650 it was found neceſſary to make a new erection *. The annual average of births, for 10 years immediately preceding the date of that erection, was 174$\frac{3}{10}$, which made the whole population about 4540; and for the ſame ſpace of time immediately following it, 115; which made the population 2990. From this ſtatement it appears, that, ſuppoſing the whole inhabitants to be as 26 to 1 of the births, the pariſh of Kirkaldy was more populous, for ſome time after its firſt reduction to its preſent limits, than it is at this day. And were the eſtimate to be made by the proportion which the preſent number of inhabitants actually bears to the annual births, the difference in the population of that time would appear to have been very conſiderable †.

2. The

* See page 2d.

† The above rule for computing the population of a pariſh or diſtrict from the births, is ſuggeſted in "Queries for the purpoſe of elucidating the Natural Hiſtory and Political State of Scotland, circulated by Sir John Sinclair." In this pariſh, however, the computation falls ſhort of the real proportion. The number of regiſtered births in 179- was 60; and on an average of the 20 preceding years, 50. But, as the regiſtration of births has for ſome time paſt

2. The contributions which were then made for purpoſes of charity, and ſtill more for the ſupport of the ſtate, ſhew the place to have been reſpectable. In 1622, when the General Aſſembly of the proteſtant churches in France deputed Baſnage to the King of Great Britain, to ſollicit aid for reſiſting the oppreſſion of Lewis XIII. the town and pariſh of Kirkaldy contributed, *according to the gudewill and permiſſion of the King*, a pecuniary aid of 1030 merks *. During a period of 12 years, from 1634 to 1645, at which time money was ſo valuable as to bear intereſt at 9 per cent. the weekly collections at the church doors were greater than they are at preſent; the average amounting to L. 73:10; while that of the ſame number of years preceding 1791 does not exceed L. 63 9s. 4d.

Public Aſſeſſments.——In all public aſſeſſments, the town was rated as the ſixth burgh, and aſſeſſed in the proportion of 1 to 40 of the whole ſupplies levied from the burghs of Scotland †. For ſeveral years before and after 1650, the monthly aſſeſſments laid on it, for the maintenance of troops, exceed-

paſt been much neglected, let one half more be added for births not entered, and the whole annual births will, on an average of 20 years, be 75; which, compared with the actual numbers, is nearly in the proportion of 1 to 35. Eſtimated by this proportion, the population from 1650 to 1660 would exceed 4000.

There is no public regiſter of burials. But by a very exact liſt kept by the grave-digger for his own uſe, it appears, that the average of burials for 14 years preceding 1788 was $44\frac{1}{2}$, which is to the population nearly as 1 to 59.

* Baſnage's receipt is engroſſed in the minutes of the kirk-ſeſſions.

† See the acts of the Convention of Eſtates from 1665 to 1678, and ſubſequent acts of Parliament. The burghs which were rated higher were Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glaſgow, Perth, and at firſt St. Andrews; but the aſſeſſment of that burgh gradually fell to a fourth part of that of Kirkaldy.

ed at an average L. 400 *. In 1667, the Convention of Eſtates aſſeſſed it, for defraying the expence of the war which Charles II. had declared againſt the Dutch, in the ſum of L. 228 monthly for 12 months; over and above its proportion of the ſupply of L. 480,000 which the Parliament had granted to the King for life, and of the further ſupply of L. 133,000, which a former Convention had granted him for 5 years. And the ſame ſum of L. 228, it continued to pay monthly, ſometimes for 5 months, ſometimes for 8 months in the year, as the exigencies of the ſtate required.

Effects of the Civil War.——About the middle of the century, indeed, the proſperity of this place received a conſiderable check. The quarrel of the Parliament of England with Charles I. having in 1643 extended to Scotland, the inhabitants of Kirkaldy had taken a decided part in it.——Feeling that love of independence which the commercial ſpirit generates, and intereſted in having the fruits of their induſtry ſecured from the gripe of arbitrary power, they had early eſpouſed the ſide of liberty: And notwithſtanding the conciliating exerciſe of the royal prerogative, in renewing and extending their charter in 1644, they had entered warmly into the views of the Parliament. The Solemn League and Covenant was publicly ſworn, and ſubſcribed. And numbers, eſpecially of the ſeamen, joined the army of the Covenanters, and were preſent at the battle of Kilſyth †, in the event of which

* Collectors liſts ſtill exiſting.

† A. D. 1645. The records of the kirk-ſeſſion about this time, contain many facts, that ſerve to ſhew how deeply this pariſh was intereſted in the cauſe of the Parliament. Public prayers were offered up for its ſucceſs; and every advantage gained to it was celebrated with thankſgiving. The families of

which this place ſuffered the loſs of many of its moſt active inhabitants.——That unhappy event was followed by a ſucceſſion of misfortunes. No leſs than 58 ſhips, belonging to this port, were either taken or loſt at ſea, before the Engliſh invaſion in 1650; and from that time to the Reſtoration, 36 ſhips more were taken, many of them with cargoes; making in all (as ſtated in page 17.) 94 ſhips, the value of which is aſcertained, by a particular appretiation contained in the account of loſſes already mentioned, to have amounted to the ſum of L. 53,791 ſterling. A conſiderable number of theſe ſhips were taken in the harbour of Dundee, when that town was ſtormed and ſacked by General Monk; at which time, too, effects belonging to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy which had been depoſited at Dundee as a place of ſecurity, were carried away or deſtroyed, to the value nearly of L. 5000 *. Beſides this, different individuals ſuffered the loſs of money, which they had lent to the Committee of Eſtates for the public ſervice, but which on the eſtabliſhment of the Commonwealth it was impoſſible to recover †. In conſequence of theſe heavy loſſes, and the ſtill greater loſs of 480 men killed in the

of thoſe who had joined the army, were many of them aſſiſted by public contributions. Deſerters were cited before the kirk-ſeſſion: there is an inſtance of nine of them being called before it in one day, and ordained to return to their colours under pain of excommunication. A perſon was ſummoned before the preſbytery, for *calling the cauſe of God preſently in hand, the Devil's cauſe, as he trowed.* Different perſons who, during the ſucceſs of Montroſe at Perth, had been induced to declare for the King, appeared before the kirk-ſeſſion, and profeſſed their ſorrow for their conduct. After the battle of Kilſyth, the date of which, and of Philiphaugh, is marked on the margin of the record, horſes for tranſporting the wounded, neceſſaries, medicines, and attendance, were at different times paid for out of the pariſh funds.

* A particular account of its loſs is preſerved among the burgh records.

† Both theſe facts are annexed to the account of loſſes at ſea.

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Effects of the Civil War.——About the middle of the century, indeed, the prosperity of this place received a considerable check. The quarrel of the Parliament of England with Charles I. having in 1643 extended to Scotland, the inhabitants of Kirkaldy had taken a decided part in it.——Feeling that love of independence which the commercial spirit generates, and interested in having the fruits of their industry secured from the gripe of arbitrary power, they had early espoused the side of liberty: And notwithstanding the conciliating exercise of the royal prerogative, in renewing and extending their charter in 1644, they had entered warmly into the views of the Parliament. The Solemn League and Covenant was publicly sworn, and subscribed. And numbers, especially of the seamen, joined the army of the Covenanters, and were present at the battle of Kilsyth †, in the event of which

* Collectors lists still existing.

† A. D. 1645. The records of the kirk-session about this time, contain many facts, that serve to shew how deeply this parish was interested in the cause of the Parliament. Public prayers were offered up for its success; and every advantage gained to it was celebrated with thanksgiving. The families of

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* A particular account of its loſs is preſerved among the burgh records.

† Both theſe facts are annexed to the account of loſſes at ſea.

the courſe of the war *, the commerce and ſhipping of Kirkaldy were deeply affected. And through the ſubſequent interruption of the trade with Holland, during three ſucceſſive wars with that country, aided perhaps by the unfriendly influence of an arbitrary government on the general ſpirit and exertions of the people, the place continued to languiſh during the uſurpation of Cromwell, and the deſpotic reigns of Charles II. and his ſucceſſor James. In 1673 the number of ſhips belonging to it had fallen to 25. And in 1682 its diſtreſs was ſo great, that application was made to the Convention of burghs to conſider its poverty, and to take methods for eaſing it as to its public burdens. But the burgh having fallen under the diſpleaſure of the Court, on account of the oppoſition given by its repreſentative to the arbitrary meaſures which were then carrying on, the inhabitants were not only denied relief, but further burdened by an addition of 2000 merks to their annual aſſeſſment †. The application to the Convention was however renewed in 1687, when a viſitation of the burgh was ordered. A committee appointed for that purpoſe met at Kirkaldy the following year; and, on the evidence of the books and declarations both of the magiſtrates of the burgh and the officers of the cuſtoms, reported, *inter alia*, to the Convention, "that the cuſtoms payable "to his Majeſty were not the half of what they had been ſome "years before: that this was occaſioned by the death of many "ſubſtantial merchants and ſkippers, and loſs of ſhips and "decay of trade: that many of the inhabitants, ſome of "whom were magiſtrates of the burgh, had fled from and "deſerted the ſame: that ſo great was the poverty of the in-

"habitants,

* It is ſaid that the battle of Kilſyth alone left 200 widows in Kirkaldy.

† Stated in a petition to King William.

"habitants, that all the taxations impoſed on the town could "do no more than pay the eight months ceſs payable to the "king yearly, and that with difficulty, &c.*"

Revolution in 1688.—Before the effect of this repreſentation could be known, the Revolution took place; an event highly grateful to the Scots in general, and particularly to the *whigs of Fife*. The inhabitants of Kirkaldy, entering warmly into the ſpirit of it, and anxious to diſtinguiſh themſelves in the ſupport of it, found means to apprehend the Earl of Perth, who was Lord Chancellor, and had managed the affairs of Scotland under James; and who knowing that he was generally obnoxious on account of the cruelties which he had practiſed on the Preſbyterians, withdrew himſelf as ſoon as the public mind had declared in favour of the Prince of Orange. After detaining that nobleman in priſon 5 days and 5 nights, under a conſtant guard of 300 men, they ſent him under a convoy of 3 boats manned with 200 hands to Alloa, where they delivered him *on receipt* into the cuſtody of the Earl of Mar. The guard of 300 men they found it neceſſary to keep up for 4 months, on receiving information that a force was coming from the Highlands to burn the town, in revenge for Perth's apprehenſion.——Theſe facts, and a particular account of their loſſes, having been ſtated in a petition to King William in 1689†, they obtained an abatement of L.1000 Scots of their annual aſſeſſments. And the Revolution having happily diffuſed eaſe and freedom and ſecurity, and with theſe a ſpirit of induſtry and commercial exertion, through

* Copy of the report of the commiſſion of viſitation *penes* town-council.

† In this petition, the inhabitants offered to inſtruct, that their loſſes during the diſtracted ſtate of the country amounted to L. 800,000 Scots, or L. 66,666 : 13 : 4 Sterling.

through the country in general, the languiſhing trade of Kirkaldy revived, and wealth began again to circulate among the inhabitants. As one indication of this, the public collections at the church doors, which, on an average of 10 years preceding 1688, amounted only to L. 58:3:1, and on that year fell to L. 42 : 18 : 7½, produced annually for 4 years, commencing with 1693, L. 125:7:10; and L. 110 8s. 2d. on an average of 15 years from 1693 to the Union.

Effects of the Union.—This laſt event, whatever advantages have been ultimately derived from it to the nation at large, was long conſidered as an æra of misfortune and diſtreſs to the trade of Scotland. Taxes, which by the treaty of union were laid on many of the neceſſaries of life, the duties and cuſtoms which were impoſed on various articles of merchandiſe, and the numerous reſtrictions with which the Engliſh contrived, in the narrow ſpirit of commercial monopoly, to ſetter the trade of Scotland in general, were quickly and ſeverely felt over the whole of this part of the united kingdom. Commerce every where declined; in ſpite of the attempts which were made to ſupport it by the wretched reſource of ſmuggling. It ſuffered particularly in the towns on the Frith of Forth; many of which were quickly reduced to diſtreſs, and all of them languiſhed. This town was involved in the common fate. Its ſhipping, on which it had till then entirely depended, fell rapidly into decay; and the ſeveral wars, which followed each other with little intermiſſion for more than half a century, having continued the effect which the diſadvantageous terms of the Union had begun, the trade of this place was at laſt ſo much reduced, that in

1760, it employed no more than one coaſter of 50 tons, and two ferry-boats, each of 30 *.

On the return of peace in 1763, the ſhipping immediately revived. By the year 1772, it had increaſed to 11 veſſels, carrying 515 tons and 49 men; and although its progreſs was retarded by the war with America, it amounted, at the cloſe of that war, to 12 veſſels, carrying 750 tons and 59 men. ——From that time, it has made conſtant and rapid advances.

Preſent State of the Shipping.——At preſent †, it conſiſts of 26 ſquare rigged veſſels ‡, 1 ſloop, and 2 ferry-boats, carrying by the regiſter 3700 tons, about 5000 tons dead weight, employing 225 men to navigate them; and worth, when clear to ſail, about L. 30,000. One or two of the ſmalleſt veſſels are employed as coaſters, and trade either to Aberdeen or London; carrying to the former, ſalt and coals; to the latter, the manufactures of the diſtrict; and returning from both with goods, chiefly for this port and Leith. All the other ſhips are employed either in the foreign trade for home conſumption, or in the carrying trade. Some of the largeſt of them are employed in the trade to the Mediterranean, the Weſt Indies, and America; and of theſe ſome have been occaſionally abſent from this place for 3 or 4 years. But the greater number is employed in the trade to Holland and the Baltic. To theſe the only article of export is coals, ſhipped here, at Dyſart, Wemyſs, and other ports on the Frith; and the chief articles imported from them are corn, flax, flax-ſeed, linen-

* Copy Report of the cuſtom-houſe here to the Board of cuſtoms. A. D. 1760.

† A. D. 1792.

‡ One of the ſhips was built in 1723.

yarn, wood, iron, ashes, bark, hides, tallow, clover-seed apples, cheese, geneva, &c.

Custom-House.—The duties payable on exports and imports in all the towns on the north side of the Frith of Forth, from Aberdour to Largo inclusive *, are under the management of the custom-house at this port; the business of which is conducted by a collector with principal and junior clerks, a comptroller, a land surveyor, 3 land waiters and 14 tidesmen. The office has also the management of the salt duties within the same district; the collection of which employs 1 supervisor, 7 officers, and 20 watchmen. In 1792, 101 vessels were cleared out at the custom-house, and 92 entered; 13 of the ships cleared out, and 43 of those entered, belonged to Kirkaldy.

Duties.—The whole duties paid on exports in that year, amounted to L. 2570 : 10 : 4½; on imports to L. 2227 : 3 : 7½; on

* The whole shipping of the above district, stood as in the following table at the different periods referred to.

Ports.	In 1760.			In 1772.			In 1782.			In 1792.		
	Ships.	*Tons.*	*Men.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Men.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Men.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Men.*
Kirkaldy,	3	110	11	11	515	49	12	750	59	29	3700	225
Dysart,	7	580	50	14	1365	115	10	1210	84	25	3926	231
Wemyss,	1	130	9	2	200	17	6	315	26	6	752	49
Methel & Leven,	6	460	38	8	540	53	1	100	7	8	655	48
Kinghorn, including ferry boats,	15	760	80	18	805	86	12	405	48	15	663	57
Burntisland,	10	1135	93	10	615	63	3	100	11	6	257	21
Aberdour,	18	940	88	4	215	20	4	150	12	5	349	21
	60	4115	369	67	4255	403	48	3030	247	94	10,302	652

on both to L. 4797 : 14; of this ſum, the exports from Kirkaldy produced L. 244 : 18; the imports into it L. 1 . 87 : 3 : 7½; total L. 1432 : 1 : 7½. The duties on ſalt for the ſame year amounted to L. 5542 : 10 : 6; which, added to the duties on exports and imports, made the whole revenue paid at this cuſtom-houſe for that year L. 10,340 : 4 : 6.

Linen Manufactures.—The proſperity of this place, which was at firſt begun, and for a long time entirely ſupported by ſhipping and commerce, has of late been greatly promoted by manufactures; and particularly by the manufacture of linen. The kinds of linen manufactured here are bed-ticks, checquered and ſtriped linens, with a mixture of cotton in ſome of them, and a low-priced ſpecies of plain linen. Theſe appear to have been taken from the models of Holland and Flanders; the names which ſome of the fabrics ſtill bear, ſuch as, ſtriped Hollands, Dutch checks, Dutch ticks, Flanders checks and ticks, pointing their origin to the Low Countries. The particular time at which the manufacture of theſe articles was introduced, is not exactly known; but they can be traced back to the commencement of this century. And probability ſeems to ſupport the opinion that they were introduced earlier; perhaps between the middle of the laſt century and the Revolution, when the declenſion of their navigation and trade, forced the inhabitants to have recourſe to new ways of employing their induſtry.

Manufactures, however, made but little progreſs here, till the foreign trade had again declined in conſequence of the Union. In 1733, the whole amount of cloth ſtamped at Kirkaldy *, was no more than 177,740 yards. In 1743, it

* By an act of Parliament in 1727, no linen cloth can be ſold or expoſed to ſale, till it has been inſpected and ſtamped,—under the penalty of L. 5 on the

had increaſed to 316,550, the computed value of which amounted to nearly L. 11,000 *. And, although during the commotions of 1745 and 1746, the ſale of manufactures was in a great degree ſuſpended, yet that circumſtance did not much affect their progreſs. They continued to be diligently proſecuted, and gradually to increaſe, till the war of 1755 interrupted the communication with America and the Weſt Indies, at that time, almoſt the only market for the goods of this diſtrict. The effects of that interruption, the interval of peace that ſucceeded was not ſufficient entirely to remove. From the value of L. 22,000, to which the manufactures of the diſtrict had in ſome former years riſen, they fell in 1773 to L. 15,000; and the next year ſtill lower. Such indeed was

the ſeller, and the ſame ſum on the buyer. For the convenience of dealers in linen, public offices are eſtabliſhed in different diſtricts, under the authority of *truſtees*, whom his Majeſty is impowered by the ſame act to appoint for *overſeeing, directing, and improving, the linen manufacture in Scotland.* And theſe truſtees have in ſome inſtances authoriſed manufacturers to ſtamp their own cloth according to the directions of the act.

Although the law requiring the ſtamping of linen, was founded on apparent views of public utility, it is doubtful whether any advantage has been derived from it ſufficient to compenſate the expence and loſs of time, to which the manufacturer is ſubjected by it. The approbation of the ſtampmaſter is never found to have any influence on the judgement of the merchant: Nor is it to be ſuppoſed, that a perſon, who has no connection with the trade, and whoſe emoluments depend on the quantity which he ſtamps, will be equally ſcrupulous of affixing the ſeal of his approbation, as if his intereſt depended on the quality. If ſtamping be found a neceſſary political regulation, the ends of utility appear to be beſt attained, by giving the power of ſtamping his own cloth to the manufacturer; whoſe credit and intereſt, operate as a joint ſecurity to the truſtees; and to the public, that no improper goods are ſent into the market.

† At that time the whole cloth manufactured in the diſtrict, including the pariſhes of Kirkaldy, Abbotſhall, Dyſart, Leſlie, &c. was ſtamped here, and is included in the computation.

was their ſtate about that time, and ſo unpromiſing had the proſpect become; firſt, through the non-importation agreement of America, and afterwards, through the commencement of hoſtilities with that country, that ſome of the manufacturers thought of turning their capital into a different channel.

One of them *, however, previouſly reſolved on an attempt to introduce the manufactures of this place into the internal conſumption of England. The attempt was made, and immediately ſucceeded; and the manufacture of checks and ticks having been of late reſigned in many parts of that country, for finer and more profitable articles, and the difference in the price of labour too, enabling the Scots manufacturer to furniſh them at a lower rate, the demand from England has increaſed; and the trade has in conſequence been progreſſively advancing for 15 years, without ſuffering any other interruption, than that periodical ſtagnation, which is produced in times of proſperity by *overtrading*.

At preſent the manufactures of Kirkaldy employ about 810 looms †; of which about 250 are in the pariſh ‡, about 300 in

* The late Mr. James Fergus, of the houſe of John Fergus and Sons; to whoſe diſcernment and ſpirit, the manufacturers of this diſtrict owe their introduction to a market which of all others yields the quickeſt and ſureſt returns,——the inland market of England.

† This number is aſcertained from liſts furniſhed by the manufacturers individually. The whole diſtrict employs about 2000 looms; the produce of which for the year ending 1ſt November 1793, when the returns from the ſtamp-office to the truſtees are made up, may be eſtimated at L. 110,000.

‡ The whole looms in the pariſh, which are triple the number that they were 4 years ago, amount to 266. But of theſe from 10 to 16 are employed by inhabitants of the neighbouring pariſhes; two of whom have ſhops here for the purchaſe of goods, but are not ranked among the manufacturers of the pariſh.

in the pariſh of Abbotſhall, about 100 in the pariſh of Dyſart, about 60 in the pariſh of Largo, and the reſt ſcattered over the neighbouring pariſhes. The annual amount of a weaver's work (allowing for the variations of age, ability, and habits of application, among the whole weavers employed) is found to be at a medium from 10 to 12 pieces, meaſuring one with another, about 110 yards. On this computation, the annual produce of a loom runs from 1100 to 1320 yards, worth on the loweſt eſtimate of yards, and at the average price of 1s. each *, L. 55: And the annual produce of the whole looms employed amounts, on the ſame eſtimate, nearly to 900,000 yards †, worth at the ſame average about L. 45,000. Reckoning 22 *ſpindles* as the average quantity of yarn to a piece, 178,200 *ſpindles* are annually manufactured into cloth. Of this quantity about a ninth part is cotton yarn; which is ſpun here, and in the neighbourhood, with the aſſiſtance of machinery; as mentioned formerly. The flax-yarn has hitherto been ſpun with the hand ‡. After the flax is heckled, the manufacturer ſends it to undertakers in different parts of the country, who give it out to be ſpun, and receive a certain commiſſion on the quantity of yarn returned by them. The expence of ſpinning, when commiſſion and carriage are included, amounts at an average to 1s. 3d. the *ſpindle*. Beſides

* The prices of checks run from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per yard; of ticks, from 7d. to 2s. 6d. The proportion of plain linen is very inconſiderable, perhaps not as 1 to 500 of the whole, and the price is low. As the cheaper fabrics prevail, a low average is taken.

† This is nearly as 1 to 5½ of the whole linen made in the county of Fife, the amount of which for the year ending the 1ſt, November 1793, was 5,013,089 yards.

‡ A mill for ſpinning flax, on the Darlington model, is erecting in the neighbourhood by a manufacturer of this place; from which ſpecimens of good work have already been produced.

ſides the yarn ſpun on the manufacturers account, a conſiderable quantity is regularly bought in from the neighbourhood; and frequently from Montroſe, Brechin, Cupar-Angus, &c. Of the whole linen yarn manufactured, about a ſeventh part is ſpun from flax produced in the country; and the reſt from flax imported, chiefly from Riga, at the average price of L. 45, per ton. For ſome years a conſiderable quantity of yarn has been brought into this port from Bremen and Hamburgh. The quantity has in one year amounted to 441,400 lbs; which at 3 lbs. to the ſpindle, made 147,133 ſpindles. Of this, however, but a ſmall proportion is commonly uſed in the pariſh; and no great proportion in the neighbourhood. The far greater part of it is ſent to Perth, Dunfermling, Falkland, Auchtermuchty, and ſome other inland towns, in which coarſe linen is manufactured.

Of the yarn uſed in making checks and ticks, about three-fourths are whitened, and the remaining fourth dyed. Moſt of the principal manufacturers whiten and dye for themſelves; the reſt employ public bleachers and dyers. The different operations of heckling, ſpinning, dyeing, bleaching, warping, winding, and weaving, may be computed to employ 5½ hands to every loom; which makes the whole hands employed in carrying on the manufacture of the place; reckoning men, women, and children, 4455. Deducing the price of materials, (flax, cotton, ſoap, aſhes, indigo, &c.) which, when thoſe of the beſt quality are uſed, will be about one third of the value of the cloth, there remains L. 30,000 as the price of labour and the manufacturers profit. And this being divided among the whole number of productive hands, each is found to produce annually to the community about L. 7 Sterling.

The manufacturers of Kirkaldy, beſides the cloth made by

them, purchase annually a considerable quantity from the neighbouring district. The value of the cloth purchased by manufacturers or merchants in the course of last year, exceeded L. 30,000. Of the whole cloth, made or purchased, about three fourths are sold in England; from which a small proportion is exported to the West Indies and America. Of the remaining fourth, about one half of it is sold in Glasgow for exportation; the other half is consumed in the country *.

The

* The above was the state of the manufactures of Kirkaldy, before the distresses which commerce and manufactures in general have suffered of late began to extend to them. Through the operation of particular circumstances, those distresses were prevented for a while from having any considerable effect on this district.——An engagement with a navy contractor, which enabled one of the principal manufacturers of the place, to purchase considerable more than the usual quantity of checks, contributed to keep the trade alive there for some months, after it had suffered in other places. The manufacturers too, calculating on the prosperity of the former year, had prepared a large stock of materials for the probable consumption of the succeeding year: And these materials, many of them were under the necessity of working up and selling, although with loss, to retire their bills as they fell due. This brought the usual quantity of cloth, and perhaps a greater quantity than usual to the market, during the first part of the yeart 1793. But the causes which produced this effect were temporary, and have now ceased to operate. The engagement with the contractor has been for some months at an end. The materials provided in the former year have been generally wrought up. And while the profits on the sale of the manufacture have not been sufficient to replace them, the want of ready money cannot now be supplied, at least with the same facility as formerly, by negotiating bills. Hence there is already an increasing stagnation. The number of looms employed *without* the place is fast diminishing. The prices of spinning and weaving have been twice reduced within the compass of a few months. On some fabrics, the price of weaving has fallen $\frac{1}{12}$, on others $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, and on a great proportion of the coarser goods, $\frac{3}{7}$ of the former prices. An industrious weaver can still earn from 8s. to 12s. in the week. But the actual earning of all the weavers employed,

Leather.—The next, both in ſtanding and importance to the manufacture of cloth, is leather. This branch was eſtabliſhed on a ſmall ſcale in 1723; but it has ſince been much extended. At preſent, it employs 16 hands; who manufacture annually from 3200 to 4000 hides of oxen, and cows, about the ſame number of calf-ſkins, and a ſmall proportion

ployed, and for all kinds of work, do not now exceed the weekly average of five ſhillings.

Much has of late been ſaid of the bad effects of high wages on the induſtry and proſperity of the people. It may be doubted, however, whether ſuch reflections are founded on liberal or juſt views of the intereſt of the community. High wages, it is true, like high profits on trade, or high rents of land, increaſe the means of diſſipation to thoſe who are addicted to it, and abate the neceſſity of *their* application to induſtrious habits. But when the mind hath candidly diſtinguiſhed between things themſelves, and the abuſe of them, it will unqueſtionably be found, that liberal wages are on the whole attended with important advantages. The liberal reward of labour, inſtead of abating induſtry, ſerves in general to increaſe it; that quality, in the opinion of one of the moſt competent judges *, "*improving like every other, in* "*proportion to the encouragement which it receives.*" As high wages facilitate the ſupport of a family, labourers when they receive them are encouraged to marry young; and population increaſes. The induſtrious are enabled, not only to ſupport their families comfortably, but in many inſtances to ſave a little, which they generally apply to the purchaſe of ſtock, and begin to work for themſelves. In this way, a number of operative weavers have been of late coming forward into the rank of manufacturers, and, by widening the foundations of the trade, were contributing to increaſe the ſecurity of its continuance. By the fall of wages, a ſtop is put to this gradual advancement. And by the ſtagnation of trade, which is radically the cauſe of that fall, many of thoſe who were advancing beyond the ſtate of workmen, are thrown back into it; with earnings that are hardly ſufficient to maintain their families. In this ſituation, if they happen to have apprentices, their diſtreſs is often increaſed by them, The ordinary plan on which apprentices are taught here is rational and liberal. The time of apprenticeſhip is ſhort, uſually 3 years. No premium is required for inſtructing them: But the maſter receives in lieu of it one

* Dr. Smith, Wealth of Nations, book i. chap. 8.

of ſeal-ſkins. The raw hides and ſkins are collected chiefly from the county of Fife. But as that range is not ſufficient to ſupply the conſumption, a conſiderable quantity is imported from the North of Scotland, from Ireland, and ſometimes from Holland. For ſome years back, the price of raw hides has been about 7s. per ſtone of 22 lbs; but the preſent ſtagnation of trade has reduced it under 5s.

From 220 to 240 tons of oak bark are annually conſumed in this manufacture. For many years the bark was brought wholly from England; excepting only a ſmall proportion from

one half of the apprentice's earnings, while the other goes to his own ſupport. In favourable times, an induſtrious apprentice, over and above the ſhare which goes to his maſter, earns conſiderably more than is neceſſary for his ſupport. And as the ſurplus is his own, his induſtry is conſtantly ſtimulated by partaking of its fruits. But when the wages of labour fall ſo low, that an apprentice cannot maintain himſelf with the half of his earnings,—which is the caſe at preſent with the young, the weakly, and the inexpert, he muſt become a burden upon his maſter, or upon his friends, or abandon the trade.

If things continue long in their preſent ſtate, the conſequences will in this view, be extenſively injurious to this community. The number of apprentices is very great; the demand for weavers, and the high wages of labour for two or three years paſt, having increaſed far beyond the ordinary proportion. Not only was every hand that could be ſpared from the neighbourhood determined to the loom; but plans were formed for procuring ſupplies from a diſtance. Advantageous propoſals were circulated through different diſtricts of the Highlands, in conſequence of which about 50 young men, chiefly from Sutherland and Caithneſs came to this place as apprentices to the buſineſs of weaving, and many more were preparing to follow. Thoſe who came had ſcarcely begun to feel the advantages of their ſituation, when a reduction of wages took place. Diſcouraged by this circumſtance on the one hand, and tempted on the other by large bounties to enter into the army, moſt of them have run off, and enliſted.——And this is a ſcheme likely to be fruſtrated, which promiſed to bring large ſupplies of productive labourers to this diſtrict; and, in the event, perhaps to carry manufactures and induſtry into diſtricts of Scotland, where they are at preſent almoſt entirely unknown.

from the Highlands of Scotland. At that time the average price, including freight and carriage, was about L. 5 : 10 per ton. But Britiſh bark having within the laſt 3 or 4 years advanced almoſt to double the former price, (from L. 8 to L. 10) it has ſince been found neceſſary to import a great proportion of what is uſed here, from Germany and the Netherlands. The leather, which is of all the uſual denominations, viz. bend, crop, ſhoe-hides, cordovan, ſaddler's leather, &c. is ſold in the neighbouring towns and country, in the north of Scotland, in Perth, Glaſgow, Edinburgh, and occaſionally in London. The annual ſales have for ſome years produced at an average from L. 7000 to L. 8000. The duties paid on this branch produce annually about L. 470. The wages of a tanner, which are nearly double to what they were 30 years ago, run in the week from 6s. to 10s; thoſe of an induſtrious currier will average 15s.

Cotton-ſpinning.—The ſpinning of cotton, chiefly for woof, has been carried on here for 8 or 9 years; and till this year with conſiderable ſucceſs. In 1792, 110 hands, reckoning men, women, and children, were employed in the town; beſides thoſe who were employed by manufacturers of this pariſh, in the neighbourhood.——At preſent, the number is reduced to 75. Theſe prepare and ſpin about 1100 lbs. of cotton in the week, or about 57,000 lbs. in the year. This quantity is ſpun into 32,000 ſpindles of yarn; which at the average price of 4s. per ſpindle, yields L. 6400. The yarn is ſpun on the common *jenny*; of which inſtrument 29 are employed. The carding is performed on cylinder cards, moved by horſes. The weekly wages paid to the whole hands employed amount to L. 12.

Before this year, a conſiderable quantity of the yarn ſpun here was ſent to Perth, to be wrought into callicoes. At preſent,

present, almost the whole of it is consumed in the manufactures of the district. And to supply these, about as much more is spun by manufacturers of this place in a neighbouring parish *, where the convenience of water has induced them to erect machinery.

Ship-building.—Ship-building was introduced here in 1778. Previous to that time, a great proportion of the ships employed in the trade of Great Britain, was built in America; the contiguity of navigable rivers to immense forests making the construction of ships less expensive in that country than in any other. But since the separation of America, and especially since the register act of 1785, excluded all ships not British-built from the trade of this country, ship-building has generally increased in it. 38 Vessels carrying about 3000 tons, carpenters measure (about 4500 dead weight) have been built here in 15 years; most of them for the ports of the Frith; but some of them also for Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c. One of the largest of them for the capital of Zealand. The ordinary contract-price for building with oak plank, is from L. 4:5. to L. 6 per ton of the burden, and the hull is usually from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the price of the ship when clear to sail. The ship timber used here is partly brought from England, and partly imported from Hamburgh. The number of carpenters employed varies from 10 to 30. The average of their daily wages is about 1s. 8d.

Manufacture of Stockings.—The manufacturing of stockings has been carried on here since the 1773. 11 Looms are at present employed in it; 7 in what is called *customer-work*, i. e. in working materials which families or individuals prepare for their own comsumption, and 4 in manufacturing for sale.

* Kinghorn.

ſale. Calculating on the average of all ſizes and qualities of ſtockings, every loom employed for ſale produces annually about 520 pairs, worth from 2s. to 4s. each, or about L. 70 the whole produce. The average of the earnings of an induſtrious ſtocking maker is about 8s. in the week.

Sea Salt.——The making of ſea ſalt was once a manufacture here, and a long eſtabliſhed one. In the town's charter of confirmation (1644), the ſalt pans are mentioned as part of the deſcription of the burgh. But little or no ſalt has been made ſince coal ceaſed to be wrought in the pariſh *.

Bank.—The general proſperity of this place has been much promoted by the eſtabliſhment of a branch of the bank of Scotland in 1785. As moſt of the buſineſs of the neighbouring diſtrict is tranſacted through the medium of this branch, its annual operations in the way of caſh accounts, diſcounting bills, and circulating the paper of the company, are very conſiderable. And it is worth while to remark, that notwithſtanding the increaſed facility of obtaining credit which has been produced by it, yet no failure of any conſequence has happened here; nor has the bank, or their agent, who guarantees to them all the bills which he diſcounts, ſuffered any loſs, ſince the office was eſtabliſhed.

About two years ago, the banking company of Dundee attempted to ſhare this profitable trade with the bank of Scotland

* Since the above was written, the making of ſalt has again begun, and is likely to be carried on with ſucceſs: a late advance on the price of ſalt being more than ſufficient to balance the extra expence of bringing coals from a diſtance.

land. But owing to the circumſtances of the times, the attempt has not ſucceeded.

Diſadvantages.——While different circumſtances conſpire to render this town an advantageous ſituation for commerce and manufactures, there are obvious diſadvantages under which it labours. 1. The harbour is narrow, incommodious, and ſo much expoſed to an heavy ſea from the eaſt, as to ſuffer frequent injury. This, it is poſſible in ſome degree to remedy; but at an expence to which the funds of the town are at preſent inadequate. 2. The pariſh affords no water for the neceſſary operation of bleaching, or for driving the machinery by which the ſpinning both of cotton and flax is now beginning to be performed. 3. The vicinity of the capital contributes to increaſe the prices of labour and proviſions, and perhaps too, to produce ſome effect on the general habits of living: Add to all this, 4. The unfriendly influence of corporation and burgh privileges. The corporation ſpirit, limiting to a few, advantages to which all have a natural claim, and making the *freedom of the trade*, as it is called, paramount both to ſkill and induſtry, cannot in the nature of the thing, but operate unfavourably on the proſperity of the community. It is probably owing to the operation of this ſpirit, that although free burgage tenure be every way ſuperior to that of burghs of regality and barony, yet the adjacent towns of Linktown and Pathhead, which are of the laſt kind, have for 30 years back increaſed in more than a double proportion to the royal burgh of Kirkaldy. The *politics* of burghs, too, generally affect the public induſtry and the public morals: Or if they ſhould not, at any rate they tend to abate the public happineſs and proſperity. The colliſion of political opinions and political intereſts, dividing the inhabitants

habitants into *parties* or *ſets*, not only diminiſhes the freedom of intercourſe and familiar ſociety, but prevents the application of the public ſtrength *entire*, to the proſecution of the public good.

Although this place has ſuffered in common with others from that unhappy cauſe, it is but juſtice to ſay, that there is perhaps none of the burghs of Scotland, of which the conſtitution is more liberal, or of which the government is leſs *appropriated*.

Conſtitution of the Burgh.——At the time that the oldeſt exiſting records of the burgh commence (A. D. 1586,) the form of its government was popular, and extremely ſimple. The whole adminiſtration was veſted in two baillies, annually elected *by the inhabitants, nybors and freemen at large*, who as the minute of election bears, *gave them commiſſion, and promiſed them ſubjection and aſſiſtance.* The baillies, after taking an oath of fidelity, named what was called the *head court* or *annual aſſiſe*. This court immediately ſat, and *ordained acts and ſtatutes for the public weil*; which were inſtantly recorded as the baillies guide for their year of office. In 1595 a council was added to aſſiſt the baillies. This council, two or three years after, aſſumed the power of naming a *leet*, from which the inhabitants were to chooſe the magiſtrates; and after the preparation of a year or two more, took the election wholly into its own hands, and excluded the community. In the charter of confirmation, however, the right of electing their magiſtrates was reſolved to the community in common with the council. And when the burgh was in 1652 incorporated with the commonwealth of England, that right was expreſsly recogniſed and continued to them: And "the "neighbours and inhabitants of the town were authoriſed and "appointed, according to their former rites and cuſtoms, from "time

"time to time to nominate and chooſetheir magiſtrates and o-"ther officers for the government of the burgh *". The Reſtoration produced a new conſtitution; the formation of which was a ſource of violent diſſenſions among the inhabitants. Theſe were, however, at length compoſed by the arbitration of the Earl of Rothes, then Preſident of the Privy Council; who by his decreet arbitral pronounced in 1662, eſtabliſhed the *ſet* or *conſtitution* which ſtill ſubſiſts; and which has continued ſince that time without interruption, ſave only during the reign of James II. who by his organ, the Privy council, expreſsly nominated and appointed to the magiſtracy, &c. ſuch perſons as he judged moſt *loyal and ready to promote his ſervice* †. By this conſtitution the government of the burgh is veſted in a council annually choſen from three claſſes of inhabitants, mariners, merchants, and craftſmen. The council conſiſts of 21 members; of whom 10 muſt be mariners, 8 merchants, and 3 craftſmen. The old council elect their ſucceſſors; to whom, however, they do not wholly reſign their places, till they have voted along with them and with the deacons ‡ of the incorporated trades in the election of the new magiſtrates. Theſe are taken from the new council; and conſiſt of a provoſt, 2 baillies, a dean of guild, and a treaſurer. The incorporated trades are 7 in number; and rank in the following order; ſmiths, wrights and maſons, weavers, ſhoemakers, taylors, bakers, and fleſhers. Here as in other

* Commiſſion from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England, to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy, to chooſe their own magiſtrates, *penes* Town Council.

† Act of the Privy Council in 1687, appointing the Earl of Balcarras, and others, magiſtrates of Kirkaldy *penes* Town Council.

‡ The Deacons have a vote in the Council in all caſes, excepting the formation of the new Council.

other burghs, the privilege of exerciſing their ſeveral trades is enjoyed excluſively by the members of the incorporation; excepting in the caſe of weavers and fleſhers. The excluſive privileges of the former were reduced by an act of the legiſlature in 1751; by which weavers in flax and hemp are permitted to ſettle and exerciſe their trades any where in Scotland, free of all corporation dues. And the injurious conſequences of the corporation privilege are guarded againſt, in the caſe of the latter, by an act of the firſt Parliament of Queen Anne, (ſeſs. 1. ch. 7.); which declares it to be leiſume to all perſons whatſomever, to ſell and break all ſorts of fleſhes on every lawful day of the week, and that in all towns and burghs of this kingdom, free of any impoſition whatſomever, the petty cuſtom of burghs excepted.

Parliamentary Repreſentation.—Since the Union of the two kingdoms, this burgh joins with the neighbouring burghs of Dyſart, Kinghorn, and Burntiſland, in ſending a repreſentative to the Britiſh Parliament. Delegates, nominated by the councils of the ſeveral burghs, elect the repreſentative. The return of the repreſentative is made by the burghs in rotation; and in caſe of an equality, the delegate of the returning burgh has a double voice. The greateſt number of thoſe who vote for the delegate is 28; and the choice is determined by a majority. The delegate, when choſen, is not merely the legal organ by which the ſenſe of his conſtituents is expreſſed. He acts in the matter of election, without limitation or controul; and his principles are their only ſecurity for his conveying their ſentiments.

Revenue.——The revenue of this burgh is but inconſiderable. It ariſes partly from feu-duties on land. By the origi-

nal charter of erection *, 52 acres of adjacent land, which, together with the burgh, had been conveyed to the abbey of Dunfermling in 1450, were disjoined from the regality of the abbey, and annexed to the burgh, to be held of the crown. Some time after, the right of paſturage in the moor, which had alſo been conveyed to the burgh in 1450, was by a new conveyance from the abbey, converted into property †. The moor and burgh acres extended to full three fourths of the preſent pariſh. The burgh acres were early alienated. The moor continued long in the poſſeſſion of the community. In 1648, at which time the parts of it that lay neareſt the town were begun to be converted into arable land, it was let at L. 72:6:8 ‡. In 1688, the moor and common loan were let at L. 68:10 §. Since that time the whole property of the town has been feued out, and it now yields L. 40:12, to

* This charter, which is referred to in the Charter of Confirmation, but without ſpecifying its date, is not now to be found. It is probable that the papers which related to the erection of the burgh, were either deſtroyed in 1560, when the French, whom the Queen Regent brought into Scotland to aſſiſt in ſuppreſſing the Proteſtants, plundered and burnt Kirkaldy in their deſtructive progreſs along the coaſt of Fife, or loſt in 1651 at the taking of Dundee, to which place they had, on Cromwell's invaſion, been removed for ſecurity, with other valuable effects, as mentioned in page 21ſt. One or other of theſe is ſtated in a memorial from the town in 1678; as the reaſon why they could not be produced in a proceſs before the Court of Seſſion, in which an exhibiton of them had been ordered. The facts ſtated above are taken from different papers in poſſeſſion of the burgh.

† This conveyance is mentioned in an inventory of writs belonging to the burgh in 1722.

‡ Renounciation and diſcharge Henry Boſwell to the town.

§ Report of the Commiſſion of Viſitation, appointed by the Convention of Burghs.

to the community *. In this ſum all public burdens are included; the community having become bound, when their lands were feued, to relieve the feuars of all public burdens in all time coming; thus leaving to poſterity one incontrovertible proof, at leaſt, that they once had property.

The reſt of the revenue is drawn from a port duty on goods landed at the harbour, from the petty cuſtoms on goods interchanged with the neighbouring country, and from an impoſt of 2 pennies Scots on the pint of ale brewed in the town for ſale, or ſold into it from the neighbourhood. This laſt is a parliamentary grant, which was firſt given for a limited period, in 1707, with the burden of L. 10 annually, to the profeſſor of mathematics in the King's College of Aberdeen; and which has, ſince that time, been again and again renewed, without any burden. The whole revenue produced laſt year L. 317 †, but it does not average above L. 260. The ordinary purpoſes to which the revenue is applied, are: 1. The diſcharge of public burdens, amounting annually to about L. 60. 2. The payment of intereſt on a debt of L. 2430 ‡. 3. The reparation of the harbour. 4. The payment of clerks, officers, and all the incidental expences incurred in conducting the buſineſs of the community.

The annual ceſs paid to government from this burgh is L. 80:9:8; to which it was reduced on a repreſentation

* Above 400 acres of the moor were feued to the late Mr Oſwald of Dunikeer, at the yearly feu-duty of L. 45 : 10. But, in conſequence of a reſerve to the feuar, to buy up the feu-duty at leaſt to a certain extent, at 20 years purchaſe, it has been lately reduced to L. 20 : 18 : 4; ſo that the whole feu duties now payable to the town, are as above ſtated.

† Feu duties L. 40 : 12; petty cuſtom L. 28 : 10; ſhore-dues L. 135; impoſt L. 105; meal market, weigh-houſe, &c. L. 8. Total L. 317 : 2.

‡ At the Revolution, the debt of the town was 60,000 merks, or L. 3333 6s. 8d. Sterling, as aſcertained by the Commiſſion of Viſitation.

to the convention of royal burghs in 1770, after having stood at L. 94 : 15 : 9, since the Union. Part of the cess is levied from the traders, according to the trade of each, ascertained by a jury of 5 mariners, 5 merchants and 5 craftsmen; who are nominated by the council, but who cannot at the time be members of the council. Part of it is levied from the burgh acres. But three fourths of it are raised by a poundage on house rents. These have been progressively advancing for 30 years. In 1763, they were estimated at L. 729; in 1783 at L. 1050; in 1793 at L. 1654. As houses in the possession of proprietors are always rated below the real value, the whole house rents may be estimated at L. 2000; which is about the proportion of L. 3 of rent for each family.

The window tax amounts nearly to as much as the cess. The whole duties paid to the tax-office for the year ending 5th April 1793, amounted to L. 171 *. The whole duties paid to the excise-office †, for the year ending 6th July 1793, amounted to L. 2250 : 15 : 6½. The post office produced in 1793; L. 528; the distribution of stamps L. 433. When to these branches the customs are added, the whole revenue drawn

* Window duty, old and new, L. 76 : 19 : 10; inhabited houses L. 6 : 12 : 3; wheel-carriages L. 48 : 8; male servants L. 23 : 18 : 6; horses L. 15 : 2 : 6. Total L. 171 : 1 : 1.

† This is properly the residence of the collector of excise for the county of Fife. It is also the residence of a supervisor, and of —— officers of excise, The detail of the excise-duties stated above, is as follows: Ale, L. 259 : 13; candle, L. 59 : 2; leather, L. 471 : 14 : 10½; malt, L. 174 : 11; wine and spirits imported, exclusive of the custom-house duty, L. 1130 : 15 : 8; wine licences, L. 12; foreign spirit do. L. 71 : 8; plain aquavitæ do. L. 46; tea do. L. 9 : 7; tobacco do. L. 5 : 5; licences for brewers, candlemakers, tanners, and curriers, L. 11 : 10. Total, L. 2250 : 15 : 6½.

drawn from this parish for one year will amount to L. 4814 : 18 : 3; which is nearly in the proportion of L. 1 : 16, for every person, man, woman, and child in the parish *.

Ecclesiastical State.——The ecclesiastical establishment of this parish has, through the low state of the burgh funds, suffered a temporary reduction. In 1614, the date of the oldest ecclesiastical record, the church appears to have been collegiate; the duty of it having been conducted by two ministers, exercising equal powers, and having nearly an equal provision †. At that time the stipend of the second minister was 800 merks, paid the one half by the heritors, the other by the town council ‡; while that of the first minister in 1630, was no more than 480 merks, a chalder of bear, a chalder of oats, and 4 bolls of wheat §. Both charges continued to be regularly supplied, and both ministers to sit as constituent members of all the ecclesiastical judicatures ‖, till 1759; when a vacancy happening in the second charge, the minister of the first undertook to do the duty of the whole parish, on condition of receiving, together with his own stipend, the half of that

* Of the articles which pay duty in this parish, a great proportion is consumed out of it. This, however, may be considered as balanced by other articles consumed in the parish, which pay duty, but of which the duty is either not paid in the parish, or not included in the above statement. Articles of the first kind, are tea, coffee, sugar, rum, porter, vinegar, home-made spirits, tobacco, glass, paper, silk, printed cloth, sail-cloth and cordage, soap, starch, pins, newspapers and almanacks, cards, and dice, &c. Articles of the last kind, are, salt, hats, drugs, perfumery, &c.

† Session records, *passim*.

‡ The amount of the stipend and the mode of payment, is written on a leaf at the beginning of the oldest volume of the Session records.

§ This is recorded in a volume of the Presbytery records of the above date.

‖ Records of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly,

that which had been enjoyed by his colleague. This arrangement, the oſtenſible reaſon of which was the poverty of the burgh, (which after the disjunction of Abbotſhall, paid the whole of the ſecond miniſter's ſtipend); the preſbytery were prevailed on to allow for a time. And although the town-council have, ever ſince the death of the incumbent with whom the arrangement was made, appropriated that ſtipend to their own uſe, the charge to this day continues vacant.

Stipend.—The crown preſents to the firſt charge; the town council were in uſe of ſupplying the ſecond. The ſtipend of the ſecond charge in 1759, was 1000 merks Scots. The preſent ſtipend of the firſt charge is 120$\frac{14}{64}$ bolls of bear, 79$\frac{1}{4}$ bolls of oats, and 100 merks of vicarage. The laſt decreet of augmentation (which, was paſſed in 1737) gives alſo the tiend of fiſh *according to uſe and wont.* But as almoſt the whole of the fiſh ſold here, is carried over land, and the uſe and wont is underſtood to confine the miniſter's right to fiſh carried into the pariſh by water, no advantage is at preſent derived to him from this part of his decreet. The firſt miniſter has a manſe; a glebe of about 2$\frac{1}{4}$ acres, and about the ſame quantity of land, *independent of the glebe*, enjoyed ſince 1678 by a private mortification By a recent judgement of the preſbytery, the miniſter is found intitled to have this glebe enlarged to the legal ſtandard, and to have ground aſſigned to him for paſture. This judgement has, however, been ſuſpended, and is now under the review of the Court of Seſſion.

Church.— The church is old, how old is not exactly known. It is ſaid to have been dedicated to St. Briſſe; who in

in the days of ſuperſtition appears to have been the tutelar ſaint of the place *, and who has entailed his name on a ſmall diviſion of the burgh lands, which is called in the regiſter of ſaſines St. Briſſe or *St. Bryce's Deal.* The church is but in indifferent repair; nor could it well be otherwiſe, when neither the heritors nor town-council have for more than 180 years taken any charge of it. What repairs it has received during that time have been paid for by the kirk-ſeſſion. On the recommendation of the heritors and council, the collections made at the church doors before the afternoon ſervice were for a while employed for this purpoſe. But the preſbytery having inhibited that application of the collections, the church has for more than a century been kept in repair out of a part of the ſeat-rents, which are under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion.

Seats.——Originally the whole area of the church was in their hands: And their records ſhew that all the incorporations, and ſuch of the heritors as have ſeats, (more than the half of them have none) derived their rights from the kirk-ſeſſion. They ſtill retain about a fourth part of the church; from which they draw annually from L. 18 to L. 20. The neceſſary repairs are defrayed from this fund, the remainder of which goes to the maintenance of the poor in common with the collections. Some of the heritors of Abbotſhall retain their ſeats in the church of Kirkaldy; and by a decreet of the Court of Seſſion in 1685, are found liable in

* The arms of the burgh appear to have been framed in compliment to this ſaint. Theſe are a Gate of a Church, with the Saint ſtanding in it, having a Mitre on his head, ſomething reſembling a Croſs in his hand, a Moon and Star, as emblems of night round him; and the motto under, *Vigilando munio.*

in their proportion of the repairs. The tiends of Abbotshall are, by the same decreet, liable for the repairs of the quire of Kirkaldy.

Dissenters.——There is no place for public worship in the parish, but the parish church; if a mason-lodge be excepted, which is employed for that purpose by an handful of independents. Most of the other dissenters attend at different places in the neighbouring parishes. On the first of January 1790, the dissenters, taking the whole number of souls, were 595; which was to the establishment nearly in the proportion of 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and of 1 to $4\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole population. These were divided among the different denominations of dissenters in the following proportions, viz. Burghers 304, antiburghers 206, presbytery of relief 51, independents 11, episcopals 10, reformed presbytery 9, Bereans 2, baptist 1, Roman catholic 1.

The dissenters of this place, and particularly those of them who retain the standards of the church, are distinguished for moderation and liberality. Of that forbidding asperity, which for some time after their first separation characterized the conduct of seceders towards the members of the church, there is scarcely a trace remaining. Good men of the secession and of the establishment, dwell together as brethren in the exercise of mutual charity and of mutual esteem. And in one of their congregations, the minister of which resides in Kirkaldy and takes his official designation from it, the established congregation of the place, has not unfrequently by name, a friendly interest in the public prayers.

School.——The public school is under the care of two masters; who teach in separate rooms, and without any dependence one on the other. The first master teaches Latin, French,

French, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, &c.; the ſecond, Engliſh and Writing. The firſt has a yearly ſalary of L. 20; which, with the ſchool-fees, and the emoluments of the office of ſeſſion-clerk which he holds at preſent, makes his living about L. 60. The ſecond has a ſalary of L. 10 *; which, with the emolument of his ſchool and private teaching, makes his living about L. 40. The ſtated ſalaries of both are paid by the town-council. There are ſeveral private ſchools in the place. In all the ſchools there are about 250 children in the ordinary courſe of attendance.

The Poor.—The poor of this pariſh are chiefly ſupplied from the collections at the church doors. Theſe, notwithſtanding the increaſe of money, which the proſperity of the country has of late produced, are not ſo great as they were an hundred years ago †. This may be partly a conſequence of the Seceſſion, which has diminiſhed the numbers of the eſtabliſhed congregation. But it may be partly attributed alſo, to a ſeceſſion of a different kind, the ſeceſſion of too many of thoſe, who are called "the better ſort," from the public ordinances of religion.—The Seceders of this claſs are unhappily ſo numerous in moſt parts of the country, that a plain man, who ſhould judge from the general conduct, might be apt to conclude, that the poſſeſſion of a little land, a commiſſion in the army or navy, or any diſtinction profeſſional or official, which allows a man to add Eſquire to his name, were conſidered as a charter, entitling the poſſeſſor to "hold blanch" of Heaven, on paying an occaſional duty;

* Since the above was written, the ſalary of the ſecond maſter has been augmented to L. 16.

† Vide pages 19, and 24.

and that, perhaps, only when demanded by royal proclamation. This is " a ſore evil," of which the country at large is at preſent eating the bitter fruits; no one cauſe perhaps having contributed more, if not to excite, at leaſt to foment that ſpirit of " inſubordination," which has of late occaſioned ſuch general alarm. Not only does the irreligion of the higher ranks abate their perſonal reſpectability and influence; but, as the common people, by a proceſs of mind of which the meaneſt are capable, transfer the character of their ſuperiors whom they know, to thoſe whom they know not, it has the effect of inducing an unfavourable opinion of the holders of place and power in general. And, what is ſtill more injurious to the intereſts of ſociety, it operates in the way of example, gradually to weaken and deſtroy the reſtraints of religion on the public mind, and ſo to leave it open, and without a guard to the impreſſions of the ill-diſpoſed and deſigning.

Were men of rank and fortune to ſee their duty, or even their intereſt, in the proper light, and to cultivate and maintain the religious character; beſides the advantage which they would derive to themſelves, in reſpect of improvement and comfort, they would ſecure at once, a perſonal influence, and an acceſſion of ſtrength to the ſtate, which, ſo long as they ſet up independant of religion, all their exertions will be inſufficient to gain.

Through the irregular attendance of many of the upper ranks, the public ſupplies for the poor are here drawn chiefly from that claſs of inhabitants on which they ought to fall lighteſt, thoſe whoſe perſonal labour is generally no more than ſufficient for the comfortable maintenance of their own families. It is not ſurpriſing, therefore, that notwithſtanding the populouſneſs of the pariſh, the ordinary collections for 12 years preceding 1791, produced no more

than L. 63 : 10. Since that time, by diſpenſing the ſacrament twice in the year, and by making an extraordinary collection at the new year, they have averaged L. 85. When to this is added, the ſurplus of ſeat rents *, the donations which are cuſtomary among the more opulent on occaſion of marriages and the death of friends, and the intereſt of an accumulated ſum of L. 290, the whole funds, under the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, have for 2 or 3 years amounted to about L. 110; or about L. 100 clear, after deducing (the only expence incurred in the management), ſmall ſalaries to a treaſurer and diſtributor, a clerk, and an officer. Out of this ſum above 40 perſons are regularly ſupplied; 8 or 9 of the moſt deſtitute of whom have the additional benefit of lodging, in a houſe purchaſed for the poor, about 50 years ago. Beſides the regular penſioners, above 40 more are ſupplied occaſionally †. That the whole muſt be inadequately ſupplied, any one may ſee who compares their number with the funds to be divided among them. Although no man, who has the welfare of his country at heart, would wiſh to ſee poor's rates eſtabliſhed here on the ſame footing on which they are in England, yet the friend of humanity muſt regret, that ſome equitable plan is not generally adopted for ſecuring more effectually to the indigent, the neceſſary aid of their more fortunate brethren. Perhaps the time is not very remote, when ſomething of this kind muſt be done. When

* See page 47.

† Since the above was written, the poor have become ſo numerous, and their neceſſities ſo urgent, that beſides extraordinary and liberal contributions made by the inhabitants, the kirk ſeſſion have been obliged to encroach on their capital. Upwards of 170 perſons, a conſiderable proportion of them with families, have been ſupplied at one public diſtribution.

ſo many of thoſe on whom the law reſts the burden of the poor, beſtow neither time, nor thought, nor money, to provide for them, it is not improbable that kirk ſeſſions, whoſe attention to the poor is merely "a labour of love"; to which they are no otherwiſe bound, than by the common obligations of humanity, will find themſelves conſtrained to do in general, what ſome of them already threaten, give up collecting at the church doors, and leave it to the civil magiſtrate to make proviſion for the poor, by putting the laws for their ſupport in execution.

It is fortunate for the poor of this pariſh that they do not all depend upon the public funds. The ſociety of ſeamen, the company of merchants, the incorporated trades, the maltmen, the carters, have all of them ſeparate boxes for aſſiſting the poor of their reſpective ſocieties. The ſeamen, in particular, have funds, ariſing partly from rents and feu-duties, and partly from a poundage on the wages of ſailors, which enable them to pay annually to indigent members of their ſociety, or to their widows and families, about L. 40, beſides furniſhing ten of them with a houſe to lodge in.

Charitable Aſſociations.—Three different aſſociations have of late been formed here, for the purpoſe of aſſiſting the members, when their ordinary labour is ſuſpended by diſtreſs. Theſe are all conſtituted on the ſame general plan. Each member, beſides a ſmall ſum paid on his admiſſion, contributes at the rate of one penny in the week, and receives weekly, when confined, 3 ſhillings. To thoſe, whoſe daily ſubſiſtence depends on their perſonal induſtry, this is often a ſeaſonable ſupply; and the meaneſt labourer can without difficulty afford the contribution which entitles him to receive it.

Means of Subſiſtence, and Wages.—The inhabitants of this pariſh, upon the whole, enjoy the means of ſubſiſtence in an equal degree with thoſe of the ſame level in any other part of the country. The late ſucceſsful exertions of the trader and manufacturer, have, by increaſing the demand for all kinds of labour, and of courſe increaſing their price, contributed to improve the circumſtances of the community in general. And, although the cauſe of this improvement does not at preſent operate with the ſame force, yet weaving, the price of which was the firſt increaſed, is perhaps the only ſpecies of labour of which the wages have yet ſuffered any conſiderable diminution. Wrights and maſons ſtill earn from 9s. to 10s. 6d. in the week; ſmiths from 7s. to 10s.; ſhoemakers from 5s. to 10s.; taylors from 6s. to 8s.; hacklers from 9s. to 15s.; gardeners from 8s. to 12s.; day-labourers from 6s. to 7s. in all ſeaſons; and during the time of harveſt, and of weeding and hoeing, which, ſince drilled crops have become ſo frequent, continue through a great part of the ſummer, their earnings are ſtill higher. Male farm ſervants, and female ſervants, whether for houſe or farm, are commonly hired by the half-year; and receive of wages, the former from L. 3 : 10s. to L. 4. the latter from 25s. to 40s. excluſive of their ſubſiſtence.

Proviſions.—While ſuch is the rate of wages, and labourers in general are fully employed, proviſions are obtained eaſily, and upon the whole at a moderate price. Oat meal, now leſs uſed than formerly, but ſtill a chief article of food among the working claſſes, ſells, on an average of ſeven years, at 1s. the peck; flour at 1s. 4d.; peaſe and barley meal at 8d. When oat meal is cheap, the conſumption of it is to that of flour, nearly in the proportion of two thirds, when dear, of one half. Two thirds of the oat meal conſumed here is brought

brought from a diſtance, chiefly from Mid-Lothian. The flour is chiefly furniſhed by the county of Fife, though there is occaſionally a ſupply from England.

The fleſh market is well ſupplied in all ſeaſons, and the conſumption of butcher-meat very conſiderable, probably three times what it was twenty years ago. The average of the number, weight, and value of the different kinds of cattle which have been annually killed, and ſold here for ſome years, is as follows.

Kinds.	Number.	Weight of each in tron ſtones.	Total weight of each kind.	Medium price, per lib. of 22 oz.	Total value.
Beeves	600	24	14.000	3$^{d}\frac{3}{4}$	L.3.500
Calves	550	3	1.650	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	495
Sheep	1500	2	3.000	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	900
Lambs	900	1$\frac{1}{4}$	1.125	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	337
Hogs	60	8	480	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	144
	3610		20.255 ſtones or 445.610 lb. Engl.		L.5.376

Of this quantity, a full third goes into the conſumption of the neighbouring pariſhes: About 700 ſtones are bought for ſea-ſtores, by the ſhipmaſters of the place; whoſe principal ſupplies of ſalt-beef are from Ireland: The remainder (about 12,530 ſtones *tron*; or 275.660 lib. Engliſh), is conſumed in the pariſh; and is nearly in the proportion of 4 ſtones, 11 lib. or 103 lib. Engliſh, to every man, woman, and child in it.

The ſupply of fiſh is leſſened, and the price raiſed, by the nearneſs of the metropolis. There are no fiſhers that belong to this pariſh: About the beginning of ſummer, a family or two uſually come from Buck-haven, the principal fiſhing ſtation on the ſouth coaſt of Fife, and reſide here for a few months, for the convenience of ſupplying the inhabitants. But the chief ſupply is carried from Buck-haven and Wemyſs,

over

STATE of the Funds, for building a Bridge over the Tay at Perth, and of Expenditure upon the Work, and relative thereto, from its first commencement in January 1766, to Whitsunday 1787.

FUNDS.								
His Majesties Donation, from the Annexed Estates	L. 4000							
Do. of L. 700 yearly for 14 years, from said Estates	9800							
The Community of the Burgh of Perth, of free gift	2000							
The Convention of Royal Burrows, do.	500							
The free gift Subscription by Noblemen, Gentlemen and others	4798	17	6					
Tolls collected, till the same was set in lease	1491	17	9¼	21098	17	6		
Tax duties of tolls, from Whitsunday 1772, to Whitsunday 1787	11222	10		12714	7	9¼		
Casual Sums received on various Accounts				950	12	4½		
							34763	17 7¾
EXPENDITURE upon the Work, from its beginning in Jan. 1766, till the Bridge was finished in Feb. 1772.								
General incidents, respecting the Management, Interest of Money, prices of Lands, &c				2896	13	5½		
Expence of the Mason part of the Work.								
Quariers and Labourers	5532	11	6¼					
Masons	4102	4	4½					
Cartage of Stones	1379	14						
Overseers	611	11	3					
Boatmen	1216	18	6					
Tools for the Quarry, and for Mortar	412	12						
Iron and Lead	681	10	7½					
Pozzolane Lime, &c	1047	3	5¾					
Incidents	125	12	10½	15109	18	7½		
Expence of the Wright part of the Work.								
Wrights wages, and Sawing	2209	2	2¼					
Labourers serving Wrights	903	18	3½					
Overseers	467	16						
Boatmen	63	1	10¾					
Liquors and Bread in both Departments	407	19	4½					
Timber and charges	2699	9	4¼					
Iron Work, for Engines, &c. Ropes, Nails, &c.	1542	16	2¼					
Incidents	145	16	11¼	8440		2¾		
EXPENDITURE from Feb. 1772, to Whitsunday 1787.				L. 26446	12	3⅓		
Repairs	362	15	10					
Interest on borrowed Money	5114		1¼					
Prices of Lands purchased	648	10	2⅔					
Incidents, comprehending gratuities to Mr Smeaton, &c. Including allowance for Subscriptions not paid, and irrecoverable	1491	19	2½					
				7617	5	4 5/12		
Lent to the Town of Perth, on Bond, at L. 4 *per cent.* towards the L. 1500 Fund to be lent out for Repairs				34003	17	7¾		
				700				
							34763	17 7¾

N. B. The Tax duties of the Tolls, gradually increased from L. 700, to L. 863 *per annum.*

over land, on the backs, ſometimes of horſes, but more commonly of women. In this way, moſt kinds of fiſh that are caught in the Frith, are pretty regularly brought to Kirkaldy in their ſeaſons, haddocks excepted; which have for ſeveral years, been extremely rare, and have been ſold at enormous prices. A ſhilling has been paid for a ſingle haddock, that 15 years ago would have ſold for a halfpenny.

The vicinity of Edinburgh has an effect alſo on the prices of eggs, poultry, and butter. Eggs ſell from 4d. to 7d. the dozen, hens from 1s. to 1s 6d. each, chickens from 8d. to 1s 4d. the pair, butter from 8d. to 11d. the pound, green cheeſe made of ſkimmed milk, from 2d. to 3d. the pound *. All theſe articles, (together with the yarn that is ſpun in the neighbourhood with the hand), are regularly expoſed to ſale, in the weekly market, which holds here on Saturday, and has this peculiarity, that it begins between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, and is generally over by 6 o'clock. This cuſtom was probably introduced at firſt, to evade the law which prohibits Saturday and Monday markets †. And the convenience of attending the market in the morning, and returning home in time for the ordinary labour of the day, has induced the country people to continue the cuſtom, notwithſtanding that frequent attempts have been made to alter it. By the Charter of Charles, the Burgh had the privilege of holding two annual fairs; one on the third Wedneſday of July, another on the laſt Wedneſday of September. For a long time, theſe were regularly kept; but as the conſtant trade of the place advanced, the fairs gradually diminiſhed; and for many years, there has not been a veſtige of them.

The

* Cheeſe and butter, as well as butcher meat, are here ſold by the tron or heavy pound of 22 ounces.

† Charles II. Par. i. ſeſſ. 3. cap. 19.

Manners and Character.—The inhabitants of this pariſh ſeem in general to enjoy the advantages of their ſituation, and live comfortably. Among the upper claſſes, the ſtile of living is genteel, but not luxurious or expenſive. Allowing for the diverſity of circumſtances, all claſſes dreſs well, and are generally civil in their manners, and decent in their external deportment. Although a conſiderable proportion of them have been bred to the ſea, there is nothing of the roughneſs which common opinion has attached to that profeſſion. The claſs of ſeamen is not leſs reſpectable in character than in numbers. The great body of the people are induſtrious and ſober: but 31 houſes and 19 ſhops licenſed to retail ſpirits,—a number that is in the proportion of 1 to 13 of all the families in the place,—furniſh room to ſuſpect, that from this part of the public character there muſt be exceptions. Strong drink appears to have been long a conſiderable article in the conſumption of Kirkaldy. A temporary impoſt on wines and foreign ſpirits *vented* within the burgh, having, by a charter of Charles II. been granted to the magiſtrates and council for the payment of their public debts, the *deficiencies* of that impoſt for *one* year ending November 1671, are ſtated in a proceſs for recovering them, brought againſt the vintners, to have been 60 pieces, (hogſheads) French wine, 6 butts Sack, 60 pints Rheniſh, 80 pints Tent, and 80 pints * brandy. Far down in the preſent century, it was the practice, even among citizens of ſome character, to take a regular *whet* in the forenoon, and moſt commonly to ſpend the evening in the public houſe. For a conſiderable time this practice has been given up; and the habit of drinking ſpirits to exceſs is confined to a few, and theſe generally of the very loweſt

* Scotch pints, two of which are about $\frac{1}{10}$ leſs than the Engliſh wine gallon.

loweſt order. It is remarkable, however, that no leſs than 8 perſons, and ſome of them ranking above the loweſt order, have in little more than 4 years viſibly fallen victims to this deſtructive habit. With ſome exceptions among the two extremes, the higher ranks, and the very loweſt and moſt worthleſs, the inhabitants are regular in attending the ordinances of religion, and generally obſervant of its moral duties. Although petty thefts, and other breaches of law that call for correction, may be ſuppoſed to happen at times in ſo large a community, yet the public character has been rarely ſtained by the commiſſion of great crimes. One or two inſtances of child-murder have occurred within the remembrance of the preſent generation. But no inhabitant of Kirkaldy has ſuffered the puniſhment of death ſince the commencement of the laſt century; a man and his wife excepted, who were burnt here in 1633, for the ſuppoſed crime of witchcraft *.

Eminent Men.—In reſpect of intellectual abilities, the inhabitants of Kirkaldy are not beneath the ordinary level; and the pariſh has at different times produced men that roſe far beyond it. The firſt, and not the leaſt diſtinguiſhed, whoſe name has reached us, is MICHAEL SCOT, the Friar Bacon of Scotland;

* At that time the belief of witchcraft prevailed, and trials and executions on account of it were frequent in all the kingdoms of Europe. It was in 1634 that the famous Urban Grandier was, at the inſtigation of Cardinal Richelieu, whom he had ſatiriſed, tried and condemned to the ſtake, for exerciſing the black art on ſome nuns of Loudun, who were ſuppoſed to be poſſeſſed. And it was much about the ſame time, that the wife of the Marechal D'Ancre was burnt for a witch, at the Place de Greve at Paris.

Scotland *; who, in the 13th century, contributed, by his attainments in ſcience, to break the gloom of that benighted age. After purſuing with unuſual ſucceſs the ſtudy of languages, belles lettres, and mathematics, at home, Mr Scot travelled into France, where he reſided ſeveral years. From France he removed into Germany, and lived for a while at the court of the Emperor Frederick II. a prince the moſt eminent of his time, both for his own learning, and for the encouragement which he gave to learned men. But that prince being then engaged in war, Mr Scot withdrew from the court, to proſecute with more advantage in retirement his favourite ſtudies of medicine and chemiſtry. After ſome years he returned through England, (where he was well received by Edward I.) into his own country, and there died in 1291.

The extraordinary diſcoveries of this man, particularly in chemiſtry, made him paſs in that ignorant and ſuperſtitious age, for a magician; and a thouſand popular ſtories are in different parts of Scotland told to this day, of his commerce with evil ſpirits, and of the wonders which he atchieved through their agency. He is alſo ſaid to have been a prophet, and among other events to have foretold the union of Scotland and England †. He left behind him. 1, A tranſlation of Avicena's book on animals from the Arabic into Latin: 2. A Commentary on the works of Ariſtotle: 3. A Treatiſe on the Secrets of Nature, on the principles of the Ariſtotelian Philoſophy. In this book he treats at large of a ſcience, to which a modern author ‡ has applied much ingenuity,

* He was born at his family ſeat of Balweary, now the property of Mr. Ferguſon of Raith, and ſince 1650 part of the pariſh of Abbotſhall.

† Belfour's Hiſtory of Scotland.

‡ Lavater.

nuity, Phyſiognomy: 4. A book on Alchymy, entitled, the Nature of the Sun and Moon: 5. A book entitled Menſa Philoſophica.

Sir George M'Kenzie calls him one of the greateſt Philoſophers, Mathematicians, Phyſicians, and Linguiſts, of the times in which he lived; and ſays, that had he not been ſo much addicted to aſtrology, alchymy, phyſiognomy, and chiromancy, he would have deſerved well of the republic of letters.

Towards the middle of the 17th century, Meſſrs George and Patrick Gilleſpie, natives of this place, and Mr. Robert Douglas, who, with Patrick Gilleſpie, was ſome time miniſter of Kirkaldy, diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their writings and their conduct, in the eccleſiaſtical hiſtory of thoſe difficult times. All the three were zealouſly attached to the cauſe of Preſbytery, which was then conſidered in Scotland as intimately connected with the cauſe of general liberty. Two of them, Mr George Gilleſpie, and Mr Douglas, having been previouſly tranſlated to Edinburgh, were in 1643 nominated by the General Aſſembly of the church of Scotland, Commiſſioners to the Aſſembly of Divines at Weſtminſter; in the proceedings of which, Mr Gilleſpie in particular conducted himſelf with much ability and prudence. He was one of the firſt characters at that time in the church. He wrote Miſcellanies, &c. He died in 1649, at the age of 36. A marble monument, which was inſcribed to his memory, (it is believed at the public expence), and which, as an appended inſcription bears, was pulled down through the "malign influence of Archbiſhop Sharp," but afterwards repaired by the relations of Mr Gilleſpie, is ſtill ſtanding in this church yard.

After the death of Charles I. Mr Douglas and Mr Patrick Gilleſpie took different ſides. The former eſpouſed the intereſts of Charles II. at whoſe coronation at Scone in 1651 he

he preached, and conducted the religious part of that ceremony *. The latter favoured the views of the commonwealth of England, by whoſe commiſſioners he was made Principal of the Univerſity of Glaſgow; but was ejected at the Reſtoration. The counſels and pens of both were employed to ſupport the ſides to which they ſeverally attached themſelves.

During the preſent century this pariſh has produced different perſons, who have attracted public notice. Dr. John Dryſdale, late one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, and author of two volumes of poſthumous ſermons, was a native of it, and received the rudiments of his education at what his learned biographer calls, The obſcure ſchool of Kirkaldy. He was born in 1718, and died in 1788.

Kirkaldy was the birth-place of that diſtinguiſhed ſtateſman, Mr Oſwald of Dunnikeer. Mr Oſwald was originally bred to the bar.—But having in 1741 been choſen to ſerve in parliament for the diſtrict of burghs, of which this is one, he bent the whole force of his mind to his parliamentary duty; in the proſecution of which, his abilities, integrity, and laborious attention to the intereſts, particularly the commercial intereſts, of his country, raiſed him from the level of a citizen of Kirkaldy, to the firſt offices and honours of the ſtate. He was ſucceſſively a commiſſioner of trade and plantations, a lord of the treaſury, and vice-treaſurer of Ireland. He was alſo a privy counſellor. After repreſenting this diſtrict of burghs in three parliaments, and the county of Fife in a fourth, he, in 1768, retired from public buſineſs, on account of ill-health induced by too intenſe an application to it. He died in 1769 at the age of 54.

Kirkaldy has alſo the ſignal honour to have given birth to that

* His ſermon on that occaſion was publiſhed, and is ſtill extant.

that eminent benefactor to ſociety, Dr Adam Smith, the enlightened author of the "Inquiry into the Nature and Cauſes "of the Wealth of Nations," and to have been the place of his reſidence during moſt of the time that he was employed in writing that incomparable book. Dr Smith was born in 1723. He publiſhed his Inquiry in 1776; and before his death, which happened in 1789, he had the ſingular good fortune to ſee it tranſlated into the languages, and the principles of political economy contained in it, adopted into the ſyſtems, of almoſt all the commercial nations of Europe. He wrote alſo "The Theory of Moral Sentiments."—Thoſe who would know more of this great man, may conſult a memoir of his life and character publiſhed in the ſecond volume of "The "Tranſactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh."

In the more retired, though not the leaſt uſeful or reſpectable ſphere of private citizens, Kirkaldy could reckon different perſons, who would have been diſtinguiſhed as citizens of the firſt claſs in any community.

NUMBER

ERRATA.

Page 7. l. 7. *from the bottom*, *for* four *read* five.
8. *laſt line*, *inſert* theſe *after* beſides.
20. To the money ſtated in this page, *ſupply* Scots.
21. l. 2 *from the bottom*, *for* its *read* this.
30. l. 17. *for* formerly *read* afterwards.
32. l. 7. *dele* of it. l. 17 *for* there *read* here.
32 l. 15. *for* conſiderable *read* conſiderably.
34. l. 4. *from the bottom*, *for* this *read* thus.
36. l. 18 *for* . One *read* ; and one.
41. l. 8 *from the bottom*, *after* delegate *inſert* of this burgh.
42. l. 6. *from the bottom*, *inſert* the *before* poſſeſſion.

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habitants into *parties* or *ſets*, not only diminiſhes the freedom of intercourſe and familiar ſociety, but prevents the application of the public ſtrength *entire*, to the proſecution of the public good.

Although this place has ſuffered in common with others from that unhappy cauſe, it is but juſtice to ſay, that there is perhaps none of the burghs of Scotland, of which the conſtitution is more liberal, or of which the government is leſs *appropriated*.

Conſtitution of the Burgh.——At the time that the oldeſt exiſting records of the burgh commence (A. D. 1586,) the form of its government was popular, and extremely ſimple. The whole adminiſtration was veſted in two bailies, annually elected *by the inhabitants, nybors and freemen at large*, who, as the minute of election bears, *gave them commiſſion, and promiſed them ſubjection and aſſiſtance*. The bailies, after taking an oath of fidelity, named what was called the *head court* or *annual aſſiſe*. This court immediately ſat, and *ordained acts and ſtatutes for the public weil*; which were inſtantly recorded as the bailies guide for their year of office. In 1595 a council was added to aſſiſt the bailies. This council, two or three years after, aſſumed the power of naming a *leet*, from which the inhabitants were to chooſe the magiſtrates; and after the preparation of a year or two more, took the election wholly into its own hands, and excluded the community. In the charter of confirmation, however, the right of electing their magiſtrates was reſtored to the community in common with the council. And when the burgh was in 1652 incorporated with the commonwealth of England, that right was expreſsly recogniſed and continued to them: And "the "neighbours and inhabitants of the town were authoriſed and "appointed, according to their former rites and cuſtoms, from "time

" time to time, to nominate and chooſe their magiſtrates and o-
" ther officers for the government of the burgh *." The Reſto-
ration produced a new conſtitution; the formation of which was a ſource of violent diſſenſions among the inhabitants. Theſe were, however, at length compoſed by the arbitration of the Earl of Rothes, then Preſident of the Privy Council; who by his decreet-arbitral pronounced in 1662, eſtabliſhed the *ſet* or *conſtitution* which ſtill ſubſiſts; and which has continued ſince that time without interruption, ſave only during the reign of James II. who by his organ, the Privy Council, expreſsly nominated and appointed to the magiſtracy, &c. ſuch perſons as he judged moſt *loyal and ready to promote his ſervice* †. By this conſtitution the government of the burgh is veſted in a council annually choſen from three claſſes of inhabitants, mariners, merchants, and craftſmen. The council conſiſts of 21 members; of whom 10 muſt be mariners, 8 merchants, and 3 craftſmen. The old council elect their ſucceſſors; to whom, however, they do not wholly reſign their places, till they have voted along with them and with the deacons ‡ of the incorporated trades in the election of the new magiſtrates. Theſe are taken from the new council; and conſiſt of a provoſt, 2 baillies, a dean of guild, and a treaſurer. The incorporated trades are 7 in number; and rank in the following order; ſmiths, wrights and maſons, weavers, ſhoemakers, taylors, bakers, and fleſhers. Here, as in other

* Commiſſion from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England, to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy, to chooſe their own magiſtrates, *penes* Town Council.

† Act of the Privy Council in 1687, appointing the Earl of Balcarras, and others, magiſtrates of Kirkaldy, *penes* Town Council.

‡ The Deacons have a vote in the Council in all caſes, excepting the formation of the new Council,

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF SCONE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By ROBERT THOMAS, *Preacher of the Gospel.*

Name.

THIS parish has always borne its present name. It is sometimes written *Scoon*, but more frequently *Scone*. The word is supposed to be of Gaelic original. The people in the Highlands call it Skain, those who live at a remote distance pronouncing both vowels, and those who live nearer pronouncing the *a* only, which they sound like the English long *a*.

The word *Skàin* in Gaelic is said to signify a rent. But though there are several chasms, or deep openings of the earth formed in several places by the constant action of two brooks; yet, there is no mark of any such convulsion of nature, as this origin of the name might be supposed to indicate.

Situation, and Extent.—It is situated nearly due north from Perth, in the county and presbytery of Perth, and in the synod of Perth and Stirling. It is bounded on the west by the river Tay, which separates it from the parishes of Perth

and Redgorton; on the north and eaſt by the pariſh of St. Martin; and on the ſouth and eaſt by the pariſh of Kinnoul.

Its form is irregular; but, on the whole, it approaches in a certain degree to a ſquare. Its extent from north to ſouth, as well as from eaſt to weſt, is about 3 Engliſh miles; and conſequently it conſiſts of about 9 ſquare miles, containing about 4600 Scots acres. Of theſe, about 3000 are under graſs and corn; 700 planted; 500 common, (now under ſubmiſſion in order to a diviſion), and the reſt is either occupied by roads and villages, or is hitherto in an uncultivated ſtate.

Appearance.—From the ſide of the Tay, on the weſt, the ſurface of the earth continues, on the whole, to riſe to the eaſt border, where it is conſiderably above the bed of the river. Though there is a conſiderable part of it in level ground; yet every where, here and there, it forms itſelf into ſmall hills, of a gradual and eaſy aſcent. But there are no rocks or precipices, except in the quarries, and ſcarcely any ſteep places, except by the ſides of brooks. Every ſpot almoſt is arable; and there is ſcarcely a hill, which is not already either planted or ploughed. The whole of the weſt part of the pariſh has a cultivated and beautiful appearance. Towards the middle, and the eaſt border, there is a conſiderable quantity of ground planted; and ſome ſpots which are ſtill in a ſtate of nature. The proportion of what is uncultivated, is comparatively ſmall; and every year ſerves to diminiſh it. The whole ſurface, will, moſt probably, in a few years, be either corn fields, or plantations. Thoſe few ſpots on the weſt ſide, which have hitherto been neglected, are covered chiefly with furze and broom; and thoſe of the ſame deſcription, on the eaſt, chiefly with dwarf-heath.

Soil.

Soil.—In ſome places, eſpecially, near the Tay, the ſoil is a ſtrong rich clay; in others, it is light and gravelly; and in others, good loam. Every ſort of ſoil in the pariſh, has been much improved by the uſe of lime, and the practice of ſummer fallowing. On the richer lands, are raiſed good crops of wheat, barley, oats, peaſe and beans, flax, graſs, cabbages, potatoes and turnip. The lighter lands are not ſuppoſed to be ſo well ſuited to the culture of wheat; but they afford all the other productions which have been mentioned.

Climate.—From the high ſituation of this pariſh, relatively to the grounds on the oppoſite ſide of the Tay, it might perhaps be expected, that the cold ſhould be more ſenſibly felt here, than in the vicinity; yet this is not the caſe, except perhaps on the higher grounds, towards the eaſtern boundary. The greater part of the pariſh, has a fine ſouth-weſtern expoſure; the higher grounds ſhelter the lower; and ſeveral plantations on the north and eaſt, afford a conſiderable ſhelter to almoſt the whole.

That chain of hills, which ſhelter the Carſe of Gowrie, and which on the north ſide, reach within a ſhort ſpace of the ſouth border of this pariſh, ſerves as a barrier to thoſe miſts, which coming up the Tay from the ſea, frequently ſpread themſelves over a great part of the neighbouring pariſhes; the ſame hills, attract thoſe vapours, which are exhaled from the ſurface of the earth, in the ſouth-eaſt part of the pariſh; the current of air, produced by the running of the Tay, is the cauſe of a ſimilar effect, all along the weſt border; and the natural inequality of the ſurface, in moſt places, together with the drains which have been made, carry off both the water, which ariſes from ſprings, and that which falls down in ſhowers.

The air therefore is upon the whole, mild and dry. A late phyſician, much and juſtly reputed for his ſkill in his profeſſion, had ſuch an opinion of the ſalubrity of the air of Scone, that he uſed to call this pariſh the Montpelier of Perthſhire.

Diſeaſes.—The inhabitants are afflicted with no peculiar diſeaſes, but in general enjoy a very great ſhare of health; though, there are few or no inſtances amongſt them of remarkable longevity. The caſe of three ladies, ſiſters, who died ſome years ago, was ſingular. The eldeſt lived to the age of 91, the youngeſt to 87, and the other to 88 or 89. Fevers are rare. The ague is now ſcarcely heard of. Rheumatiſm is the moſt frequent complaint; and, what is very remarkable, was little known till within the laſt 40 or 50 years. Whether this has been owing to a change in the clothing or food of the inhabitants, to ſome change in the atmoſphere, or to all theſe circumſtances combined with other cauſes, is not aſcertained.

The prejudices of the greater part of the people againſt inoculation for the ſmall pox, have prevented this ſalutary practice from becoming general; though they have every argument from experience in its favour, as ſcarcely any of thoſe children who have been inoculated, have died.

Rivers.—There are two brooks, which ſerve three mealmilns, a ſaw-miln, and a waulk-miln; and produce a ſmall ſort of trout. But the Tay is the only river in the pariſh. The tide flows about a mile above the bridge of Perth, oppoſite to the houſe of Scone, and to this place the river is navigable by large boats. Above this, it becomes ſhallow and rapid; but here it is deep and placid, like a floating mirror, reflecting the beautiful ſcenery on its banks. It has been

ſaid,

ſaid, that no other river in Britain diſcharges more freſh water into the ſea than the Tay. It produces eel, ſome perch and pike, and four or five different ſorts of trout in great abundance, ſome of which have a fine flavour, and weigh, at an average, about two pounds. But the moſt valuable fiſh which it affords, is ſalmon, which is reckoned excellent, and of which the greater part is exported to London and the foreign markets. The fiſhings are chiefly rented of the proprietors by the merchants of Perth, who employ the fiſhermen. There are five different fiſhings belonging to the pariſh, which occupy 13 boats and 30 fiſhermen. The fiſhing ſeaſon is from the 29th of November, to the 26th of Auguſt; but both the ſalmon and the fineſt trout are ſuppoſed to be in their greateſt perfection in the month of May. The trout, having never been appropriated, affords excellent ſport to the gentlemen, who are fond of angling.

The Tay alſo abounds in the pearl-oyſter. Numbers of pearls were fiſhed out of it about thirty-five years ago.

Quarries.—There are ſix or ſeven quarries of excellent free ſtone. In ſome of theſe, the ſtone is of a reddiſh, and in others of a gray or azure colour. They differ alſo in degrees of hardneſs and fineneſs; but all of them are fit for the purpoſes of building.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has encreaſed very much within the laſt twelve years, and is ſtill encreaſing. Scarcely can houſes be built faſt enough to accommodate thoſe who want them.

This has been owing to ſeveral cauſes. Before the end of the year 1792, our manufacturers had for ſeveral years, been

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in a more flouriſhing condition, than at any former period. This encouraged young people to marry; a bleach-field and cotton-mill, eſtabliſhed at Stormont field, added about 100 to the number of inhabitants; and a great many new houſes being built in the village of Scone, the conſtant employment given to workmen and labourers, and the facility of bringing up a family, encouraged ſtrangers to ſettle in it. The number of the people, has been encreaſed from theſe cauſes, and neither ſcarcity, epidemical diſeaſes, nor crimes, have hitherto diminiſhed it.

Population Table.

The number of ſouls, is	1442	——— between 20 and 50 - -	660
——— Males	726	——— between 50 and 70 - -	132
——— Females	716	——— between 70 and 80 - -	18
Inhabitants of villages	840	——— between 80 and 90 - -	2
——— of the country	602	Farmers families -	27
Annual average of births for the laſt 10 years	40	Heritors reſident -	7
——— of deaths	20	Do. non-reſident -	4
——— of marriages	14	Feuars poſſeſſing from half an acre of land, to 2 acres	25
The proportion of the annual births to the whole population, is nearly as	1, to 36,	Pendiclers - -	27
——— of the annual deaths to the whole population, as - -	1, to 72,	Inhabited houſes -	230
——— of the annual marriages to the whole population, as -	1, to 103,	Houſes built within theſe 10 years - -	63
The number of ſouls under 10 years of age	374	Old do. pulled down within theſe 10 years -	22
——— between 10 and 20 - -	256	Married perſons -	548
		Batchelors above 50 -	5
		Unmarried	

Unmarried women above 45	4	Baker	1
Widowers	21	Gardeners	4
Widows	30	Apprentices	14
Members of the Eſtabliſhed church	864	Male-ſervants	95
Seceders	570	Female do.	89
Catholics	5	Poor on the roll	12
Epiſcopalians	3	Young perſons educated	40
Shopkeepers	3	Flax dreſſers	3
Public houſes	7	Labourers	24
Procurator (or Attorney)	1	Fiſhermen	30
Smiths	8	Male bleachers	30
Maſons	8	Female do.	20
Carpenters	16	Boys, cotton ſpinners	25
Weavers	70	Girls do.	25
Shoemakers	8	Boats	13
Taylors	9	Carts	70
Meal-millers	3	Ploughs	58
Saw-miller	1	Draught horſes	200
Waulker	1	Saddle do.	3
		Cattle	586
		Sheep	160

In the above table, the Male and Female ſervants are not diſtinguiſhed by any thing but their ſex; becauſe all of them, except a few, are employed occaſionally either in the houſe, or in the field.

Prices. The rent of arable land is from 10 to 30 ſhillings an acre.

—— Of a cottage in the country, with 6 roods of ground for a garden L. 1:5.

—— Of a room, in the village of Scone, 16 feet by 16, with the ſame quantity of garden ground L. 1:10.

Price

Price of 2 ſuch rooms with double the quantity of ground - - L. 3 : 0.

And ſo on in proportion to the ſize of the dwelling and ground.

The annual wages of a male ſervant, who has board and lodging, is from L. 8 to 10, or even 12; of a female do. from L. 3, to 4.

School fees *per* quarter, for teaching Engliſh 1s
—— Writing - 1s 6d
Arithmetic and Latin 2s
Wages of a man for the harveſt, from 20s to 28s
— of a woman, from 16s to - - 20s
— of a labourer *per* day 1s
— of a fiſherman - 1s
— of a carpenter 1s 3d
— of a bricklayer - 2s
— of a maſon - 1s 8d
— of a taylor, who receives his victuals - 8d
— of a male bleacher, from - - 10d to 1s
— of a female do. from 5d to - - 8d
— of boys and girls, cotton ſpinners, from 3d to 6d
— of a woman for weeding, &c. from 5d to 8d
The price of beſt horſes, is - from L. 20 to 25
— of inferior, from L. 10 to - - 15
— of beſt cattle, about L. 10
— of inferior from L. 5. to - - L. 7 : 10
— of a ſheep, from 30s to 40s
— of a ſow, from 25s to 30s
— of a lamb, from 10s to 12s
— of a hive of bees, L. 1 : 1

Productions.—The vegetable and animal productions are pretty much the ſame here, as in moſt places of the lowlands of Scotland. As the pariſh exports annually two thirds of its corn, it produces as much in one year, as ſhould ſerve for the internal conſumption of three. Moſt of the old wood, amongſt which are ſome very fine trees, was planted by

the Viſcount of Stormont, grandfather of the preſent Earl of Mansfield, about ſeventy years ago. Three haw-thorn trees at the houſe of Kinkarochie are remarkable for their ſize. The largeſt covers with its top a circle, on the earth, 14 yards in diameter; and meaſures round the middle of the trunk, 9 feet. The old wood conſiſts chiefly of Scotch firs, planes, aſhes, elms, and horſe cheſnuts. The firs have been of the greateſt ſervice for building, fuel, and other purpoſes. The trees, in the young plantations, are the Scotch fir, the larch, the ſpruce fir, and various other ſorts. All of them were planted within the laſt 18 years, and are in a very thriving ſtate.

The breed of horſes and cattle has of late been much improved, partly by their being better fed, and partly by a better kind being introduced. The Counteſs of Mansfield, a patroneſs of huſbandry, has led the way, by introducing a breed of cattle, remarkable for their ſize and ſhape. Her Ladyſhip, has alſo turned her attention towards improving the breed of ſheep, by bringing to that extenſive lawn, in which the houſe of Scone is ſituated, a flock, partly of the Warwick-ſhire breed, ſo much eſteemed for their carcaſes; and partly of the Spaniſh, ſo remarkable for the fineneſs of their wool. The Engliſh breed anſwers very well; but the experiment upon the Spaniſh has not yet been fully made. Except 30 or 40, all the ſheep in the pariſh are her Ladyſhip's property.

Agriculture.—It appears from the face of the country, from thoſe rough grounds and moor-lands, which within a few years, have been converted into beautiful and fertile corn-fields, that modern huſbandry is well underſtood by the farmers. Some of them adopt the following rotation of crops; fallow, wheat, peaſe and beans, or other green

crop, barley, graſs, and laſtly oats. Others divide their farms into five, inſtead of ſix parts: The firſt part is, partly fallow, and partly a green crop; the ſecond is under wheat and barley, with graſs ſeeds; the third and fourth, are under graſs; and the fifth, under oats. And then the rotation begins again with fallow, or a green crop.

The new plough, uſed here, is conſidered as an improvement upon Small's. It has an iron head for the ſock, inſtead of having the ſock upon the ſheath; and the mould-board, which is caſt iron, is convex inſtead of being concave. The Scotch plough alſo is ſtill uſed. Flax and potatoes are raiſed in conſiderable quantities. Cabbage and turnip alſo are raiſed for feeding cattle; but chiefly for rearing young ſtock. Every family almoſt now feeds a pig with potatoes and a little corn; the bacon of which eats very well with their potatoes; but they have not yet learnt to uſe turnip for culinary purpoſes.

There are 2 farms about 400 acres, 4 above 200, 6 between 100 and 200, a much greater number from 60 to 100, and a ſtill greater number of pendicles *; ſome of which are rented by mechanics, who, beſides attending to their ground, follow alſo their proper occupations. The ſmall farmers or pendiclers ſell little or none of their corn. Their wives, daughters and maid-ſervants ſpin the flax raiſed on the farm; and the money which the yarn brings, pays the rent. It is ſurpriſing how ſome of theſe ſmall tenants, poſſeſſing only about 12 or 14 acres,

* Pendicles are ſmall portions of land, which do not enable the occupier to keep horſes ſufficient for its cultivation, for which he either depends on the aſſiſtance of the farmers in the vicinity, or on the help of his neighbours who are in the ſame ſituation, giving them the ſame aſſiſtance in his turn. He ſeldom keeps more than one horſe, and one or perhaps two cows.

acres, ſhould be able to maintain a family of nearly as many perſons; and yet, upon entering their cottages, one generally finds them ſnug and comfortable, and is pleaſed with ſeeing a group of happy faces. Many of them, however, have either the profits of tradeſmen, or work as day labourers. It has been more common here to unite the ſmall, than to divide the larger farms. The population is uſually much greater, where the farms are ſmall, than where they are large; yet, the union of farms has not diminiſhed the number of the inhabitants of this pariſh *; the village of Scone and Stormont-field furniſhing them both with habitations and employment.

If the proprietors of the ſoil, who diſpoſſeſs the ſmall to make room for the greater farmers, would build villages on their eſtates, the population would ſeldom be diminiſhed in any ſituation; the wealth and comfort of the people would increaſe in proportion to the ſuperior cultivation of the land; the farmers would find a market for a great part of their produce at home, and would have day labourers at command; and the proprietors themſelves would derive advantages from the villages, far beyond the expence of erecting hem.

Incloſures.—A great part of the pariſh is incloſed; and, on ſome farms, young hedges of hawthorn are raiſing, with greater attention than was formerly given to this kind of improvement. In the higher lands, the benefit of incloſures is fully underſtood; but in ſome of the lower, fencing by hedges and dykes is diſapproved of, the ſoil not admitting of paſture.

* The number of ſouls in the pariſh at preſent, is	=	1442
The population in 1755 was	-	889
The number of inhabitants increaſed	=	553

Exports.—This pariſh exports annually two thirds of its corn, beſides cattle, a few ſheep and ſwine, (but no horſes), a conſiderable quantity of ſalmon, linen cloth, and free-ſtone, and different articles of proviſion. It imports lime, coals, iron, ropes, and ſeveral other articles of proviſion and cloathing; but no meal, and no grain, excepting what is neceſſary for change of ſeed.

Gardening.—Several of the gentlemens gardens are elegant, particularly the Earl of Mansfield's; and moſt of them are well ſtocked with vegetables, and fruit trees, and buſhes. And not only the handicraftsmen, at their leiſure hours, but the farmers, begin to pay more attention to their gardens than formerly; a certain indication of the thriving ſtate of this part of the country, men commonly attending, firſt, to what is neceſſary, and then to what is commodious and ornamental. Indeed, the appearance both of the country and the people, compared with what it was twenty years ago, plainly ſhow, that they are "growing richer and happier"; an evident proof of the excellence of that conſtitution of government, under which we have the good fortune to live.

Church and School.—The church is a very handſome modern building, and is much decorated by an ancient family ſeat of very curious workmanſhip belonging to the Earl of Manſfield. It was built in the year 1784; the manſe in the year 1743; and the latter has been frequently repaired. The living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 Sterling. The Right Hon. the Earl of Mansfield is patron. The preſent incumbent, the Rev. Mr John Wright, is married, and has five children *. Beſides, the pariſh church, there is alſo a meeting-

* Mr Wright, who was long in bad health, died ſince this account was written,

meeting-houſe, belonging to the Burgher-Seceders. The ſchoolmaſter has a good houſe, which ſerves him both for a ſchool and a dwelling houſe. His ſalary as ſchoolmaſter, and his emoluments as ſeſſion clerk, amount together to L. 13 : 4 : 8. Sterling. The reſt of his income depends on the fees he receives from his ſcholars. The church, meeting-houſe, and ſchool are in the village of Scone; which is ornamented alſo with a market croſs, formerly a handſome one, but now much injured by the hand of time.

State of the Poor.—The money which ſupports the poor, is annually about L. 26 Sterling. It ariſes from funds in money and heritable property, from dues at deaths and marriages, and from the weekly collections at the church door. The poor on the pariſh liſt, are, at an average, about twelve. They receive monthly 3s. for their ſupport; but, others alſo receive occaſional ſupply. There are no begging poor in the pariſh.

In the year 1782, the crop was very bad and much injured. But then, the preſent Earl of Mansfield, attentive to the ſituation of the pariſh, ſent 30 quarters of ſeed corn, to be diſtributed amongſt his tenants for the ſame quantity of the produce in return; and alſo L. 30 Sterling to be diſtributed amongſt the poor of the pariſh; though this was not the only time, they have experienced his bounty; ſums, nearly of the ſame value, being frequently ſent them by his Lordſhip.

Fuel.—In ſummer, the chief fuel is furze, broom, and the weedings of the young plantations; in winter, coals, which are bought at Perth and Bridge-end, a village on the ſide of the Tay, oppoſite to Perth, at 3s. 6d. the boll of 40 ſtones averdupois weight.

Villages.

Villages.—There are a number of villages. Four of the more populous contain from 55 to 70 ſouls. Scone is the moſt remarkable. It ſtands in a plain relatively high except on the eaſt; and, though ſheltered, is ſufficiently airy and healthful. It conſiſts of 2 ſtreets and ſeveral lanes, one of the ſtreets, being remarkably wide, ſerves for a market place. A conſiderable part of it has been either built or rebuilt within the laſt 10 years. The new houſes are ſubſtantial and neat; and many of them contain ſeveral families. The number of ſouls in the village is 466.

Stormont-field Bleach-field.—This place, preſently poſſeſſed by Meſſrs Thomas and John Barland, had its name changed from Colenhaugh, to Stormont field, in honour of the proprietor, the Earl of Mansfield, formerly known by his title of Viſcount of Stormont. It is ſituated on the Tay, exactly oppoſite to Luncarty, and in a pleaſant field, along the ſide of the river, conſiſting of about 130 acres. A canal, about 3 miles in length, and 18 feet in breadth, cut, at a very great expence, through ſteep banks of the Tay, rock-marle and whin ſtone, always furniſhes it with an abundant ſupply of excellent water from the river. A ſmall canal alſo from the brook of Inverbuiſt, affords an occaſional ſupply; and the bleaching grounds are of a fine dry ſoil, and have an excellent expoſure. Adjoining to the bleaching-miln, is a miln for ſpinning cotton, upon a ſmall ſcale. The houſe for the machinery, is a large ſtructure, ſubſtantially built, of free-ſtone, and noble in its appearance. Some of the other houſes are elegant; and all of them remarkably neat and commodious.

Beſides the fall of water, which, at preſent, drives three wheels, there are likewiſe three other ſeparate falls; one of eight feet, and two of four, equal, by the command of water, to

to turn any weight of machinery; which, when fully occupied, will be an important addition to the induſtry, and population of the pariſh; the work, it is preſumed, being as yet but in its infancy. There is here bleached, in a very ſatisfactory manner, a great quantity of britannias, diapers, and every other ſort of cotton and linen cloth. As labourers are ſcarce in this part of the country, the only thing wanting to compleat Stormont-field, is an independent village, properly laid out, which would be of the greateſt advantage, both to the proprietor, and the public at large. Mr William M'Alpin, a man of genius and enterprize, has the merit of having begun, and carried on to a conſiderable length the canal and the buildings of this place.

There is beſides bleached, by the pendiclers in the ſummer ſeaſon, on a brook that runs through the pariſh, ſome linen cloth. The only other manufacture carried on by the inhabitants is linen, which employs about 50 weavers. The reſt of their handicraftſmen are employed either in weaving houſe-hold cloth, or in working for maſters in Perth.

Bridges and Roads.—The roads and bridges were formerly made and repaired by the ſtatute labour, ſometimes literally exacted, and ſometimes commuted into money; but this method being found inſufficient for the great roads, and turnpike acts being obtained, the roads will ſoon be very good. Two turnpike roads interſecting the pariſh, (and its vicinity to Perth,) but not yet compleated, are juſtly conſidered by the inhabitants, as very great advantages.

Eminent Men.—It is very probable, that the famous John Hay, alias John de Luce, chief of the Hay's, was a native of this pariſh. The inhabitants ſtill point to the village, and even to the veſtiges of the houſe, in which he lived, when,

like a patriot indeed, he haſtened from the plough, to drive the Danes from his native land.

But it is certain, that it can boaſt of having given birth to the late very eminent Earl of Mansfield. Yet, from what appeared in the Newſpapers, on the death of that Nobleman, it ſhould ſeem, that, as ſeven cities contended for the birth of Homer, a neighbouring pariſh is inclined to diſpute with it that honour. What perhaps may have in part contributed to give riſe to the opinion, that he was born in Perth, is the following circumſtance. The Viſcount of Stormont, his father, had a houſe in that town, in which the family ſometimes reſided. And it was in the public grammar ſchool of Perth, that the Earl, after having been ſometime under the care of a private tutor, received the rudiments of his education. It would be a proud diſtinction to any ſchool, to have given even the elements of knowledge to a man, who was certainly one of the moſt eminent perſonages whom this country has ever produced; and to whom, as Lord Cheſterfield ſays in one of his letters to his ſon, a numerous and noiſy houſe of commons, would liſten with ſuch attention, that one might have heard a pin fall, when he was ſpeaking.

Of the People.—It has been frequently obſerved, that the inhabitants of the pariſh of Scone were diſtinguiſhed, not only by the decency of their dreſs and appearance, but by the propriety of their manners and behaviour. The fact may be accounted for; in part, from the example of the family of Stormont, who were patterns of religion and good morals, as well as decorous manners; and in part, from the powerful miniſtry of a very worthy man, who was a long time their paſtor; cauſes, which, in a greater or leſs degree, will always influence the morals of the people. The general character

racter of the preſent race is ſobriety, induſtry, and œconomy. The lower claſs are humane, civil, obliging, and hoſpitable. The rich are more: They are genteel, and well bred. But the beſt proof of their morals is, that moſt of them are in comfortable, and many of them in affluent circumſtances, according to their rank in life; and that no inſtance can be remembered, in which any perſons of this pariſh ſuffered the puniſhment of crimes.

The public houſes, ſimply as ſuch, would not, it is preſumed, have any bad influence on the morals of the people, were it not for the immenſe quantities of whiſky which they retail, in place of well-made ale, which was formerly the only beverage. There are men in this part of the country, who conſider the large diſtilleries as gulphs, which ſwallow up prodigious quantities of grain, and diſcharge nothing but what ſerves to deſtroy the health and morals of the people; and they very much deſire that the legiſlature would deviſe ſome way, which, ſeconded by the example of the great, ſhould bring again into faſhion the uſe of home-made fermented malt liquors, which the encouragement given to the diſtilleries has brought almoſt entirely into diſuſe.

Antiquities.—Near the eaſt boundary of the pariſh are two circles, ſaid to be druidical temples. They are within 14 yards of each other. Each circle conſiſts of nine large whin ſtones, placed at unequal diſtances; and each circle is ſeven yards in diameter.

The Roman military road, leading from the camp at Ardoch, to the bottom of the Grampians, enters this pariſh on the weſt, a little above a farm houſe on the Tay, and paſſes through, till it leaves it on the north-eaſt quarter.

On the other ſide of the river, oppoſite to the place where the road enters the pariſh, ſtood the ancient town of Bertha,

now a hamlet, bearing that name; and it is ſaid, that there, in former times, there was a bridge over the river, and that ſeveral large beams of oak, yet to be ſeen under the water, formed a part of it.

About a quarter of a mile up the river from this place, are the veſtiges, it is ſuppoſed, of an encampment. It is a ſpot of ground incloſed, on the weſt, by the Tay; and on the other ſides, by a foſſe. Its figure is nearly an oblong, and its circumference, about 535 yards. A ſmall brook runs through it; and on the ſouth ſide of this brook, about 30 yards up from the river, are the veſtiges of a fortification, called the Silver caſtle; probably, from a vulgar idea that money was hid in it. This place is ſituated, nearly about half way between the Roman military road, and a place on the oppoſite ſide of the river, where the battle of Luncarty was fought between the Danes and the Scots. But time, and the recent operations of the plough, have now almoſt obliterated thoſe monuments of ancient times.

Perhaps the veſtiges of the famous John Hay's houſe, and the croſs of Scone, may be claſſed among the antiquities. The former is nothing but the remains of a cottage, a little raiſed above the ſurface of the earth, and covered with graſs. The latter is a narrow upright ſtone, thirteen feet high, ornamented at the top, and placed in an octagonal ſtone, that reſts on a quadrangular flight of ſteps.

But what excites the curioſity of every perſon who has been intereſted in reading the hiſtory of Scotland, and attracts the attention of almoſt every traveller, is Scone. This being anciently the reſidence of our kings, and the ſcene of the moſt intereſting and ſplendid actions, ſome account of it muſt be expected by the reader. At the Reformation the mob, from Dundee and Perth, impelled by their averſion to Popery, and by private reſentment, as well as the hope of booty,

booty, ſpoiled and burnt both the ancient Abbey and Palace *. The Abbey wall, from the foundations which have been dug up, is ſuppoſed to have incloſed a ſpace of 12 acres.

"This Abbey, ſays Spottiſwood, was founded by Alexan-"der the firſt, 1114, and was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, "and St. Michael. It was the place where our kings were "accuſtomed to be crowned, and where the fatal marble "chair, now at Weſtminſter, was uſually kept. It former-"ly belonged to the Culdees, if we truſt George Buchanan, "and ſeveral other authors; and it was erected into a tem-"poral lordſhip, in favour of Sir David Murray, a cadet of "the family of Tullibardine, in the year 1604" †.

It is uncertain whether the preſent houſe of Scone, a ſeat of the Earl of Mansfield, ſtands on any part of the foundations of the former buildings. Two lines of a Scotch poet, a native of Perth ‡, who had every opportunity of informing himſelf with regard to this particular, would lead a perſon to ſuppoſe, that it does.

As we thus talk'd, our barge did ſweetly paſs,
By Scone's fair Palace, ſometime Abbey was.

It is about a mile due north, from the town of Perth. It ſtands upon a piece of riſing ground, about half a mile from the Tay; and is ſituated in the midſt of an extenſive lawn, which ſlopes gradually towards the river.

Round the houſe, except on the ſouth weſt, where it is open, runs a ſhrubery and young plantation, interſected with ſerpentine gravel walks; and intermixed with old trees,

* Knox's Hiſtory of the Reformation.

† Spottiſwood's Hiſtory of Religious houſes.

‡ Mr Henry Adamſon.—See Cant's Hiſtory of Perth.

among the largeſt and fineſt in the country. Immediately before it, and on each ſide, the verdant ſurface of the lawn ſpreads itſelf, covered with daiſies, and variegated with trees planted ſingly, and in clumps.

This ſcene, bounded by the river, which flows gently beneath, is admired by all ſtrangers who viſit this country; and is greatly heightened by the beauty and variety of the banks of the river, as far as Perth.

Nothing can be more delightful than the proſpect from the houſe, to the weſtward. On the left hand, at the diſtance of two or three miles, the hills above the Tay, and the Earn, ſeem to unite, forming a vaſt theatre, decorated with plantations, and corn-fields. On the right, at the diſtance of fifteen miles, the Grampian mountains aſſume a ſimilar form; and in the middle, induſtry and ſkill have given a gay and cultivated aſpect, to a very extenſive tract of country.

The houſe itſelf is in that ſtile of architecture which prevailed about a century and a half ago; which gives it a certain noble and venerable air, more pleaſing to men of genuine taſte than the moſt finiſhed modern buildings. It is about 70 yards in length, and 35 in breadth. The gallery which is on the eaſt ſide, is 140 feet long. The ceiling is of timber, and arched. On the one ſide of it is painted the hunting of a ſtag in all its different ſtages; on the other are repreſented the exerciſe of hawking, the hunting of the wild boar and the wild bull. It is ſaid that king James the ſixth appears in every ſcene; that the groupes of figures attending him are the nobles of the court; and that all of them are exact repreſentations of the originals. The ſpaces between the different ſcenes are filled up with the arms of the family, with fruit and flower pieces and other ornaments. In the opinion of artiſts, the deſign in theſe paintings is good, and the faces

animated.

animated. The colours appear to have been vivid; but by accidents and the waſte of time the whole has ſuffered conſiderable damage.

In a chamber off the north end of the gallery is the canopy of ſtate, uſed by the preſent Earl of Mansfield, when ambaſſador at the court of Verſailles, now converted into a bed; and in another off the ſouth end, which is called the king's room, is a bed of damaſk ſattin of a light orange colour, and ſeveral antique chairs covered with the ſame ſort of cloth. In a chamber on the weſt ſide of the houſe, which is called the Queen's room, is a bed of flowered crimſon velvet, ſaid to have been the work of Queen Mary, when a priſoner in the caſtle of Lochleven. Theſe chambers, as well as the drawing room, are decorated with marble chimney pieces, with hangings of fine tapeſtry, with portraits of the anceſtors and relations of the family, and of other great perſonages who lived in former times; and with other ſorts of painting, ſome of which, though injured by the hand of time, are ſtill admired. The dining-room is ſpacious and elegant. In this room is a ſuperb marble chimney-piece, on the upper part of which are the arms of Britain, and on the lower thoſe of the family of Stormont; and at one end of it are two very elegant full length portraits of their preſent majeſties, drawn in their royal robes, and as large as the life.

About 100 yards due eaſt from the ſouth eaſt corner of the houſe are the veſtiges of the old abbey church; but ſuch changes does time introduce, that, on that ſpot where our ancient kings were crowned, there now grows a clump of trees.

Between 60 and 70 yards north from this place is what is vulgarly called the Boot-hill. It is likewiſe called Omnis terra, or Every man's land. Hume in his hiſtory of the Douglaſſes gives us the origin of this name, "that when Robert

"Bruce

" Bruce was crowned 27th March 1306, Sir James, the 8th " Lord Douglas, aſſiſted, and caſt into a heap, as did the o- " ther Barons, a quantity of earth of his lands of Douglas; " which, making a little hill, is called Omnis terra. This " was the cuſtom of thoſe times, by which homage, they " who held the king of Scotland ſupreme under God were " diſtinguiſhed from others. It is ſaid that the Barons of " Scotland could receive inveſtiture of their lands as lawfully by " delivering earth and ſtone from this ſpot, as from their own " lands. We are informed alſo, that anciently the conven- " tions of the nobles were held in this place *".

The tradition of the people of the pariſh concerning the Boot-hill is, that at the coronation of a king, every man who aſſiſted brought ſo much earth in his boots, that every man might ſee the king crowned, ſtanding on his own land; and that afterwards, they caſt the earth out of their boots on this hill, upon which account it obtained the names of Boot-hill and Omnis terra. But, perhaps, Boot-hill is a corruption of Moot hill or Mute-hill; which is probably the ſame with the Saxon word, folk-mote, and may ſignify the hill of meeting. The people in the Highlands, it is ſaid, call the Boot-hill, at this day, Tom-a-mhoid, i. e. the hill where juſtice is adminiſtered. On the Boot-hill David, 1ſt viſcount of Stormont, built an elegant pariſh church about the year 1624, when the old abbey church or what remained of it fell. But, a few years ago, this church wanting repairs, and being inſufficient to accommodate the pariſhioners, was, except the aiſle, thrown down, and the preſent pariſh church built in the village of Scone.

On the north wall of this aiſle is a very ſtately marble monument

* Cant's hiſtory of Perth.

nument erected to the memory of David, firſt Viſcount of Stormont. It ſeems to have been intended for an altar-piece, and to repreſent the inſide of a chapel or oratory. In the middle, towards the lower part of it, is a ſtatue of his Lordſhip as large as the life, clad in armour, kneeling on a cuſhion at an altar, a book lying open before him, and the palms of his hands joined, as if earneſtly engaged in devotion. On either ſide is a man in armour, ſomewhat ſmaller than the life; the one ſaid to be the Marquis of Tullibardine, the other the Earl Mareſchall. Above theſe are ſeveral emblematical figures; towards the top are the arms of the family; and, over all, an angel, who ſeems to look down with approbation.

On the eaſt wall is an elegant monument of blue and white marble, erected in honour of Lady Stormont, firſt Lady to the preſent Earl of Mansfield. On a pedeſtal, in a marble nitch in the wall, ſtands a large urn of white marble, in which is incloſed the Lady's heart embalmed; and below, on the pedeſtal, a remarkably elegant and pathetic Latin inſcription, expreſſive of the Lady's great worth, and the regret occaſioned by her death; which does much honour, not only to the genius and erudition, but to the heart, of its noble author.

As we advance by a gravel walk from the houſe to the eaſtward, we are agreeably ſurpriſed to find ourſelves, on entering the ſhrubery, in the midſt of a ſmall lawn of a circular form, ſurrounded by ſhrubs and trees of unequal height, which, together with the ſurface of the earth, exhibit the appearance of a crowded amphitheatre. Here, and all along the ſhrubery and young plantation, luxuriant nature may be ſeen to wanton in all the richneſs, variety and gaiety of foliage. So rich is the ſoil, that ſome of the trees, though planted within theſe nine years, have attained the height of thirty feet.

To the ſouthward of this lawn is the kitchen garden, enriched with all ſorts of culinary vegetables, with fruit trees and buſhes, and ornamented with walks and flowers. On the weſt ſide of it is a romantic bower, which immediately calls to our remembrance the fair Roſamond's.

From the garden we paſs into the nurſery. It is an oblong park of about 2 acres, having a fine ſouthern expoſure, and being ſurrounded by a number of tall and ſtately trees, which, at the ſame time that they ſhelter the young plants, give the place a remarkably pleaſing and venerable air.

On the ſouth of the nurſery is a hollow or den, planted on each ſide with ſhrubs and foreſt trees, and enlivened by a ſmall brook, which runs through it. Along the ſide of this brook is a winding gravel walk, which leads to the lawn, in which the palace is ſituated.

As the ground riſes, the ſpectator, on the oppoſite ſide of the Tay, ſees every object diſtinctly, round, and ſwelling to the eye.

Ancient Cuſtom.—Every year on Shrove-Tueſday, the batchelors and married men drew themſelves up at the croſs of Scone on oppoſite ſides. A ball was then thrown up, and they played from 2 o'clock till ſun ſet. The game was this. He who, at any time got the ball into his hands, run with it till overtaken by one of the oppoſite party, and then, if he could ſhake himſelf looſe from thoſe on the oppoſite ſide, who ſeized him, he run on: if not, he threw the ball from him, unleſs it was wreſted from him by the other party; but no perſon was allowed to kick it. The object of the married men was to hang it, i. e. to put it three times into a ſmall hole in the moor, the *dool* or limit on the one hand; that of the batchelors was to drown it, i. e. to dip it three times into a deep place in the river, the limit on the other. The party who

who could effect either of theſe objects, won the game. But, if neither party won, the ball was cut into two equal parts at ſun-ſet. In the courſe of the play one might always ſee ſome ſcene of violence between the parties; but, as the proverb of this part of the country expreſſes it, *all was fair at the ball of Scone.*

This cuſtom is ſuppoſed to have had its origin in the days of chivalry. An Italian, it is ſaid, came into this part of the country, challenging all the pariſhes, under a certain penalty in caſe of declining his challenge. All the pariſhes declined the challenge excepting Scone, which beat the foreigner; and in commemoration of this gallant action the game was inſtituted.

Whilſt the cuſtom continued, every man in the pariſh, the gentry not excepted, was obliged to turn out and ſupport the ſide to which he belonged; and the perſon who neglected to do his part on that occaſion was fined; but the cuſtom being attended with certain inconveniencies, was aboliſhed a few years ago.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF GARGUNNOCK.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES ROBERTSON.

Situation.

GARGUNNOCK, or Gargownno (as it is called in ſome old records), is ſituated about ſix miles weſt of the town of Stirling, on the ſouth ſide of the Forth, by which it is ſeparated from the pariſhes of Kilmadock, and Kinkardine. It is bounded on the eaſt and ſouth, by the pariſh of St. Ninians, and on the weſt, by Kippen, Balfron, and Fintry.

Name.—It ſeems of no great importance, to aſcertain the preciſe meaning of the word Gargownno. Different etymologiſts will give different explanations of the names of places, in which there is often more imagination than knowledge. Gargownno is probably of Celtic origin; deſcriptive of the particular ſpot, on the banks of the Forth, where a ſmall fort ſtood, of which there is ſome account in the Hiſtory of Sir William Wallace. There we read of the * Peel of Gargownno, in which

* Peel ſignifies a fort.

which an Engliſh party was ſtationed, to watch the paſſage of the Frew, in its neighbourhood. Wallace with a few followers, took the fort by ſtratagem in the night, while the Engliſh were off their guard. The curious ſtranger may be conducted to the ground which it once occupied; and may perhaps regret, that ſcarcely a ſtone is now left to tell its ſtory. There is ſomething ſo venerable in the abodes of our anceſtors (though in ruins), that it is much to be wiſhed, the frequent practice of carrying them away, for the purpoſe of making dykes, or fences, was for ever aboliſhed. The remains of the bridge of Offers, about a quarter of a mile weſtward of the Peel, by which Wallace croſſed the Forth, on his way to the moſs of Kinkardine, are ſtill in exiſtence; and for ſeveral years, it has been in agitation to rebuild it, which would greatly facilitate the communication betwixt the pariſhes on both ſides of the river, and encourage tenants to give an additional rent for their farms.

Extent.—This pariſh extends about three miles and an half, from eaſt to weſt, and from north to ſouth it meaſures ſix.

Diviſion of Lands.—All the eſtates conſiſt of muir, dry field, and carſe farms. On the ſouth is the muir, which is part of a hilly tract of ground, ſtretching out from Stirling to Dumbarton. That portion of the muir which belongs to this pariſh, conſiſts of about 3000 acres, of which each heritor has a diviſion, lying in a direct line with his other lands.

The muir has of late become an object of greater conſideration, than in former periods. The demand for ſuch paſture is much increaſed; and this has naturally led the proprietors to ſet a higher value on it, than they were accuſtomed to do a few years ago. Every one has his own

proportion accurately meaſured; and its worth is now ſo well underſtood, that ſometimes it is no eaſy matter to ſettle a diſpute about a few acres; which perhaps, in other times, would have gone for nothing. That part of the muir, which is connected with the eſtate of Gargunnock, was let, laſt year, at almoſt double the former rent; but the proprietor hath this year taken it into his own hands; and having peruſed Sir John Sinclair's pamphlet on the ſubject, hath been induced to ſtock it with the Cheviot breed of ſheep. The ſhepherd, who has been brought from that country, is hopeful the experiment will ſucceed to a wiſh, although all the ſheep farmers here are ſtrongly prejudiſed againſt the ſcheme; and predict its total failure, during the winter months. The ſuperior quality, and price of the wool, is a ſufficient juſtification of the attempt; and if the plan is ſucceſsful, it will certainly turn out one of the moſt beneficial of all our improvements. Men of property alone are qualified to engage in deſigns of this nature. If they are ſucceſsful, they will ſoon be followed by others; and ſociety at large will reap the good fruits of their labours. Or, ſuppoſing the undertaking ſhould prove abortive, they are ſufficiently able to ſuſtain the loſs. That man is deſerving of praiſe, who employs his ſubſtance in ſuch laudable purſuits, as according to his beſt judgement may be uſeful to the community, as well as to himſelf.

It would be of great advantage, both to the landlord and tenant, if care was always taken to annex to the muirland farm ſome low lying fields, of better paſture; as, where this is not the caſe, the farmer is often obliged to ſend his flock during the winter to a great diſtance, which muſt be attended with inconvenience. Col. Eidingtoun of Gargunnock is well provided in this reſpect; a circumſtance favourable to his purpoſe of rearing the Cheviot breed. The tenants of the muir of Boquhan, in this pariſh, are alſo well accommodated.

dated. They poſſeſs ſome good paſture ground, immediately below the hill, which adds much to the value of their farms, both with reſpect to convenience and profit. They are at pains never to overſtock thoſe fields, in ſummer; and the ſheep find abundant proviſion in them, in winter. By this means, the muir is covered by the ſheep which it has bred; and the farmer ſays, that ſuch as have been thus reared at home, turn out much better than thoſe which he hath brought, at any time, from other parts of the country.

It is ſeldom that any part of the muir is cultivated for raiſing grain. Attempts have been made this way, but moſt frequently with little or no ſucceſs. A few acres near the houſe of the farmer, have been ſown with oats or barley, but a good crop was never expected. The ſoil and climate forbid the uſe of the plough. There are extenſive meadows; which, after having been covered with water in the winter, and had a little manure thrown upon the ſurface, produce abundance of excellent hay; and hay-making, which is generally in the month of Auguſt, is the principal harveſt.

The whole of the muir is without inhabitants, two families excepted, which poſſeſs that part of it belonging to General Campbell of Boquhan. Gargunnock-muir, as has been ſtated above, is in the hands of its own proprietor; but the other diviſions are rented by ſheep farmers in neighbouring pariſhes. To reſide at a diſtance from the farm muſt always be attended with diſadvantage. It is impoſſible the neceſſary attention can be given to the flock. Or, if the truſt is committed to a ſhepherd, whoſe viſits are only occaſional, and who cannot be conſtantly at hand, eſpecially amid the ſtorms of winter, when much exertion is often requiſite to ſave the animals; it is eaſy to ſee the riſque muſt be greater, than when the maſter himſelf, or ſome ſuch intereſted perſon, reſides on the ſpot.

The two muirland houſes have nothing in appearance to recommend

commend them; and yet the low roof, the ſort of door which obliges a perſon for the ſake of his head to make a profound bow as he walks in, and the pitiful window, which ſcarcely affords him ſufficient light to ſhow him where he is, are inconveniencies ſoon forgotten, when he is placed by the fire ſide. The inhabitants though dwelling in a deſert, have a civility of manners which does them honour. An old ſoldier who came to their door, was kindly received, and continued for years to make their houſe his home. All the return they could expect, was a little amuſement in the winter evenings, while he rehearſed the ſtory of ſieges and battles.

If houſes for the entertainment of the public cannot be expected in a country that is thinly inhabited, this diſadvantage is ſo much the leſs felt, that the people are remarkable for hoſpitality. There is a kindneſs to the ſtranger, which is ſeldom to be met with in larger and more poliſhed ſocieties. If there is little ceremony, there is much good will.

In many places of the muir, there are roots of trees diſcovered, of a large ſize, from which it appears to have been once a foreſt; but now a tree cannot be diſcerned. While aſcending the hill, a little copſe-wood may be perceived upon the edge of the rock, which the ſheep cannot reach.

The acceſs to the muir is by narrow paſſes called ballochs*. General Campbell of Boquhan has, lately, at no ſmall expence, made an excellent road from the ford of Frew, to his muirland. This road, ſix miles long, has opened up an eaſy communication with the low country. Carts can now approach the heights to carry down peats, the fuel in common uſe, or to receive the dung that would otherwiſe be thrown into the water.

* Balloch ſignifies *road*.

er. In forming this road he met with oppoſition from the enants of the muir. The many advantages derived from it ave now corrected their miſtakes and prejudices, in oppoſing what was ſo evidently intended for their benefit.

It is delightful to look down from the hills to the cultivated lain below. The proſpect is extenſive and beautifully diverſified. The windings of the Forth, the fertile valley, adorned on both ſides with the ſeats of the proprietors, and ſtretching from weſt to eaſt farther than the eye can reach; and the range of mountainous country on the north and ſouth, ſerving as a wall to ſhelter it from the ſtorms, form altogether one of the moſt pictureſque ſcenes in Scotland. The beauty of the landſcape is greatly increaſed of late, by the very extraordinary improvements in the moſs of Kincardine, belonging to Mr Drummond; where many families, encouraged by the liberal terms held out to them by that gentleman, have ſettled and live comfortably. As their number is daily increaſing, and each family is bound to remove a certain portion of the moſs yearly; it is underſtood, that the period is at no great diſtance, when upwards of a thouſand acres of carſe land will be added to his eſtate, while in the mean time thoſe who clear the ground of the moſs have an ample reward. The plan has ſucceeded beyond every expectation. There is no object of curioſity, in this part of the country, equal to the improvements in the moſs of Kincardine.

The inhabitants of this pariſh look to the hills for ſigns of the weather, and are ſeldom diſappointed. The ſetting ſun, ſhining on the face of the mountain, indicates fair weather; while the ſudden falling of miſt on the top of it, ſoon after he has ariſen bright, is conſidered as the ſure mark of a rainy day.

Several rivulets flowing from different quarters of the muir, and at length uniting, form a ſucceſſion of caſcades, over craggy

craggy precipices, which after heavy rains, are ſeen and heard at a great diſtance. The beſt view of them is from the riſing ground, at the weſt end of the village of Gargunnock.

Dryfields—The dryfields occupy the intermediate ſpace, between the muir and the carſe grounds. Their name ſuppoſes that they are not ſubject to thoſe floods, which frequently cover the carſe, a flat low-lying country. Beſides their being conſiderably raiſed above the level of the carſe, and their gradual aſcent to the bottom of the hills, which makes it impoſſible for water to remain upon their ſurface; they are alſo for the moſt part of ſuch a light ſandy ſoil, as quickly abſorbs the rain, and ſhews the propriety of the name they bear.

The greateſt part of the dryfields, until of late, lay waſte and wild, overrun with furze and broom. Few of them were ſubdivided or incloſed or cultivated in any conſiderable degree. Plantations were not in uſe, and excepting on the ſides of the glens, ſcarcely any thing like a tree was to be ſeen. But now it is quite a new ſcene. All the heritors have united in a regular plan of incloſing with dykes and hedges. Many of the uncultivated ſpots are covered with thriving plantations. The country is adorned and the farms ſheltered.

In giving ſome account of the preſent ſtate of the dryfields, Boquhan, the property of Lieut. John F. Campbell claims particular attention, as his unwearied exertions, in executing an extenſive plan of improvements for thirteen years paſt, have beautified and enriched his lands, in a high degree.

The plan has been carried on at an expence, exceeding at times the rental of the eſtate; and yet ſuch expenditure is not loſt, if by this means the value of the ground is proportion-

ably increaſed, and bread is given to the induſtrious poor. Fifty or ſixty day labourers, and occaſionally a greater number, are employed in planting, hedging, draining, ditching, rooting out whatever might obſtruct the plough, making good roads from farm to farm, and fencing the young hedges and plantations againſt injury from cattle. Twenty five pounds ſterling *per* week, laid out in this manner, have not only fertilized many waſte and barren fields, but have alſo afforded the means of ſubſiſtance to not a few families in the neighbourhood. Every one muſt have ſome amuſement, and there are amuſements which pleaſe not on reflexion; but, when agricultural improvements are viewed merely in the light of an amuſement, (though they were attended with no other advantage), it is certainly one of the moſt rational that can be conceived, and to a generous mind it muſt give real pleaſure, as every ſtep taken to cultivate the country, contributes to the general advantage of the community.

A pamphlet lately publiſhed by the General himſelf, entitled "Notes reſpecting the Situation and Improvements of "the Lands of Boquhan", deſcribes in a lively, entertaining, inſtructive manner, the change produced on the dryfields, ſince they came into his poſſeſſion.

Theſe improvements may not appear ſo ſtriking to thoſe who ſaw their commencement, and have been accuſtomed to obſerve their progreſs from day to day, as they muſt to every one, who may now return to Boquhan, after an abſence of ſeveral years. Strangers, as they paſs along, are charmed with the ſcene, and ſurvey at leiſure that rich variety of natural and artificial beauty which ſurrounds them.

There is only one thing regretted, by ſome of the inhabitants. It was neceſſary, to pull down a conſiderable number of cottages. Three or four ſmall farms are thrown into one, by which means, the population of the dry fields is diminiſh-

ed: but when it is considered that the lands are now cultivated to much better purpose than formerly, that they are doubly fruitful, and that wherever a family is possessed of a few acres only, even the necessaries of life must be procured with difficulty; when to this it is added, that such persons find no worse subsistence as day-labourers, than as tenants of what do not merit the name of farms, it must be owned, that the method which is now almost universally adopted, of having fewer tenants, but larger farms, is of advantage to the country, while it is attended with no permanent loss to any individual.

Better houses are also obtained, than could be expected were the farm to consist of little more than twelve or twenty acres. And this must uniformly be the case, wherever farms are extensive, and let to substantial tenants; as when one farm-house only is required, where three or four perhaps were formerly necessary, the farmer will be better accommodated, in every respect, in a style of elegance unknown in former times, and with less expence to the landlord.

Dr Moir of Leckie, whose lands are situated eastward of Boquhan, has also commenced a plan of improvement, in the dry fields, by inclosing and planting such spots of ground, as are but little adapted to cultivation. When the gentleman, whom he lately succeeded, came to the estate, it was incumbered with heavy debts. He instantly resolved, that his income whatever it might be, should exceed his expenditure, until he gave every one his own. He lived long enough to see his laudable purpose fulfilled. The plan he had laid down, however, made him unwilling to engage in any expensive scheme of improvement; and when the period at length arrived, which brought him the accomplishment of his wishes, he was then so far advanced in life, as to find no enjoyment in pursuits which require all the vigour and activity of youth.

On

On this account, it muſt be acknowledged, that the lands of Leckie are far behind ſome other eſtates in the pariſh, with reſpect to thoſe elegant improvements, which uſually diſtinguiſh the reſidence of men of fortune and taſte.

The preſent proprietor has already done much to remedy this defect, and laſt year, more than double the uſual number of labourers was employed. The place is beginning to aſſume a new aſpect. A garden is to be immediately formed, in a field very favourable for ſoil and expoſure; and when the family make the houſe of Leckie their ſtated abode, which it is expected will ſoon happen, there is every reaſon to believe that rapid progreſs will be made in many other uſeful and ornamental improvements.

About a mile to the eaſtward of Leckie, the road from Stirling to Dumbarton paſſes over a riſing ground, and there the dryfields of the barony of Gargunnock are viewed to advantage. The ſpectator is charmed with the proſpect. The caſcades from the hills, the glens covered on each ſide, ſome with natural wood, and others with regular plantations, the village, the church and manſe, the chimney tops of Gargunnock-houſe juſt diſcerned above the wood, the well dreſſed fields, ſome for paſture, and others for crops of various kinds, and all incloſed with dykes and hedges in excellent repair, form altogether a very fine landſcape. The incloſures however, which are immediately under the hill, and have been long in paſture, are over-run with furze and broom, which are almoſt their only produce, when not cultivated for ſeveral years. Fields of this nature, it has been ſaid by ſheep-farmers, are exceedingly uſeful in the winter, as the ſheep feed on furze. But as fields in graſs are ſuperior in every reſpect, the proprietor has begun to clear away this kind of ſhrubbery. Burning or rooting out furze and broom, does not anſwer ſo well, as cutting them a little above the ſurface

of the ground. The root ſoon withers and dies. Nothing however can do the buſineſs ſo effectually, as the plough; and when the grounds are again thrown into paſture, the cattle will prevent them from relapſing into their former wild ſtate, for a long courſe of years.

Gargunnock-houſe, now the ſeat of Col. Eidingtoun, ſtands on an elevated ſituation, near where the dry-fields are united to the carſe; and commands an extenſive proſpect. Though of an irregular figure, it contains good accommodation for a genteel family. Some parts of it are evidently of ancient date. On the eaſt wing, there is a ſort of tower, which gives it a dignified aſpect on that quarter; and until a few years ago, there was a high wall, and ſtrong gate in front of it, which indicated that it was deſigned as a place of ſtrength. It is probable the Peel, which was at a little diſtance, having been abandoned, or fallen into decay, it became neceſſary that the manſion of Gargunnock ſhould be ſo conſtructed, as to become a place of ſafety to its inhabitants.

The barony of Gargunnock, for near a century paſt, belonged to the family of Ardkindlas; and the late Sir James Campbell, whoſe memory will be long dear to the pariſh, having reſided chiefly here, was at great expence, in making improvements both on the houſe, and the adjoining fields. The removal of the wall and gate, marked the manners of the times. The garden and orchard, which were immediately under the windows, were alſo removed; high grounds were levelled; an addition was made to the houſe, in a modern ſtyle: A ſloping bank was formed on the eaſt and ſouth, where the garden formerly was, and where ſheep now feed; and from the high road, to which he gave a new direction, an approach was made to the houſe, far ſuperior to any in this part of the country.

The

The houſe of Gargunnock has acquired an additional grandeur, from the fine front built by Col. Eidingtoun in ſummer laſt.

There is one general remark to be made, reſpecting the dryfields. No portion of them is now allowed to lie neglected. They are almoſt entirely incloſed throughout their whole extent, to the bottom of the mountain; and the heritors vie with each other, in decorating and fertilizing this part of their property.

Carſe.—Etymologiſts explain this word, as ſignifying rich or fertile. This account is juſtified by fact, for ſuch lands, when properly cultivated, produce luxuriant crops. About forty years ago, the carſe grounds lay almoſt in a ſtate of nature, unprofitable to the landlord, for it was difficult to find men who would venture to poſſeſs them. Bad roads, fields unincloſed, the ſtiffneſs of the ſoil, ignorance of that kind of farming which is ſuited to the carſe, preſented great difficulties when any attempt was made towards improvement. But now it is aſtoniſhing to obſerve the effects of better huſbandry. The rivulets flowing from the hills, through the carſe, have been confined within their proper channel, ſo as to prevent the overflowing of the fields, excepting upon very rare occaſions, after exceſſive rains; many of the farms are fenced with hedges, in a thriving condition; the old diviſion of the lands into outfield, and infield has been aboliſhed. The practice of liming is followed, with great ſucceſs; a regular rotation of crops has been almoſt univerſally adopted; and from 4 ſhillings ſterling per acre, there has been of late a riſe to upwards of a guinea, and in ſome inſtances, to 30 ſhillings ſterling.

The whole carſe it is believed, was originally under water. Beds of ſhells, ſimilar to thoſe which are now in the Frith of Forth,

Forth, have been diſcovered in ſeveral places. This ſeems to juſtify the opinion, that the carſe has, at ſome diſtant period, been gained from the ſea. In later times, it was covered with what has been called the Caledonian foreſt; at leaſt it is certain, that when the Romans were in this neighbourhood, the carſe was filled with trees of a large ſize, which they cut down, to diſlodge the Scottiſh army that took refuge there.

The carſe property of Mr Graham, an heritor of this pariſh, ſtill goes by the name of Micklewood, which evidently refers to a former period of its hiſtory: For although there are ſome uncommonly fine trees, chiefly oaks, near his houſe, which muſt have been there for ſome centuries, Micklewood undoubtedly ſignifies a wood much more extenſive, than can now be diſcerned in this country. The probability is, that not only the whole carſe of this and the neighbouring pariſhes, but the dry-fields alſo were a foreſt; as large roots of trees, which are manifeſtly of very ancient date, are every where found, eſpecially on the ſides of the glens.

It appears that after the foreſt was cut down, what is now called carſe, became moſs. Not long ago, about two acres ſtill remained in this ſituation, in the carſe of Boquhan, to ſhew what the whole once was; and at the preſent day, there are upwards of 1000 acres of moſs, in the carſe of Blairdrummond, in the pariſh of Kinkardine, directly north of the lands of Micklewood. This moſs, as has been mentioned above, is daily diminiſhing. Trees of extraordinary bulk are found in it. The trunk ſeparated from the root, and lying at a little diſtance, with the marks of the ax upon it, proves not only the exiſtence, but the cutting down of the foreſt. Upon this the moſs gradually grew; ſcarcely any part of it is deeper than another. The cleared grounds are on a level with the fields in culture around them, and ſo fertile is the land thus won from the moſs, that after burning the ſurface, it bears plentiful

plentiful crops of oats, for ſeveral years, without any ſort of manure.

The proprietors of Boquhan and Micklewood are the only heritors of diſtinction who reſide in the carſe; and their houſes and plantations appear beautiful from the heights. The venerable oaks of Micklewood, attract the attention of every viſitor. Nor can we omit to mention the row of firs, where herons, time immemorial, have built their neſts, and brought forth their young. Theſe firs of Micklewood are the only trees of the kind in the pariſh to which they reſort, and Mr Graham allows thoſe trees to remain chiefly on their account.

All the roads in the carſe (excepting that of Boquhan and Micklewood), are ſo extremely bad, that during the rainy ſeaſons they are almoſt impaſſible. At ſuch times, carts cannot be uſed. Every thing muſt be carried on horſeback, and even in this way it is with difficulty that the buſineſs is accompliſhed. When the farmers are ſpoken to individually upon the ſubject, they are conſtantly complaining of their roads, and ſeem anxious to aſſiſt in repairing them. But no one chooſes to ſet about the work alone. When the time is convenient for one, it is inconvenient for another. Fair weather comes, the road is dry and firm, and the matter drops. In ſhort the proverb holds true; "What is every body's buſi-"neſs is no body's."

The beſt way would be, that the landlord ſhould make good roads to all the farms, and aſſeſs the tenants for the intereſt of what money may be expended. This mode would be acceptable to them all, and of great advantage to the proprietor; as when leaſes expire, eaſy acceſs to the farm will be always one of its moſt powerful recommendations.

The houſes on the carſe farms are not good. There are two circumſtances which muſt always prevent them from being ſo. The firſt is, the farms are ſmall, ſome twenty, and few more

more than forty acres. Can good houſes be expected in ſuch caſes? The ſecond is, the houſe is built by the tenant who is only allowed ſome timber by the landlord. It is of conſequence fitted up as ſuperficially as poſſible. If it ſerves the purpoſe of a dwelling during the currency of the leaſe, nothing more is expected. For theſe reaſons, it ſeems probable, that farm houſes will be mean and uncomfortable, wherever they are built at the expence of tenants of a few acres. Upon the farm of Redhall, in this pariſh, conſiſting of 100 acres of carſe and as much of dryfield, the property of Mr Seton of Touch, there has been lately built an exceeding good houſe of two floors and with a ſlate roof and handſome offices, at the expence of the proprietor. Such houſes, though for the preſent expenſive, laſt for ages, without the neceſſity of thoſe repairs, which are inceſſantly required for thoſe thatched cottages of half ſtone and half clay, which begin to decay almoſt as ſoon as they are reared. It is to be acknowledged, however, that poor as the carſe houſes ſtill are, they are much better than they were twenty years ago. They conſiſt at leaſt of two apartments, each having a chimney and a tolerable window: Nor are the cattle now permitted as formerly, to enter at the ſame door with the family. If the dunghill, which in many inſtances is ſtill in front of the houſe, were removed to a proper diſtance behind it, this would be another ſtep to cleanlineſs and health.

Soil.—There are few fields, either dryfield or carſe, uniformly of the ſame ſoil. In the dryfields the ſoil is chiefly light and ſandy, not unfrequently with a red tilly bottom; but in ſome places it is a rich loam, reſembling the low or flat grounds on the banks of the Forth. In the carſe there is clay of all colours, but blue is the moſt prevalent, which is alſo

the beſt in quality. In a dry ſpring ſeaſon, after an open winter, the clod is ſo hard, that there is great labour and fatigue before the harrows can make any impreſſion. A good deal of froſt in winter, and occaſional ſhowers in ſpring, are favourable to the carſe; but, if there has been little froſt, or, if there is great drought after it is ploughed, the clay becomes impenetrable as the rock, and it is not without much toil that the ſeed is covered. The nearer the banks of the Forth, the land becomes ſo much the more pliable. The clay mixt with gravel and ſand, form thoſe rich flat fields on the ſides of the river, which are in high repute both for corn and paſture.

Farming.—The method of farming now generally obſerved, proves its ſuperiority by its effects, while new attempts are made from year to year, by thoſe of ſpirit and enterprize in the way of farther improvement. The uſe of lime to the amount of 8 chalders per acre in the carſe, and 5 in the dry-fields, and the ſyſtem of having a regular rotation of crops in every field, are the chief circumſtances which have produced the very material difference betwixt the preſent and the former quantity of grain in the pariſh. It is no unuſual thing now to find 10 bolls of wheat or barley upon an acre, which once produced almoſt nothing but thiſtles. The carſe is ſown with wheat, beans, barley, and graſs ſeeds, and after hay has been cut for two years, the field is next in oats, but in ſome places paſturing is preferred, as it contributes much to enrich the ground.

The late Mr Graham of Micklewood, who had a thorough knowledge of farming, and who pointed out the way to the improvement of the carſe, ſcrupulouſly obſerved the following rotation of crops, as what he judged the beſt, and expreſsly appointed a particular farm to be ſo cultivated in all time

coming; perſuaded that experience would prove the excellence of his plan. A farm, ſaid he, ought to conſiſt of twelve incloſures, and be managed as follows. Summer fallow, wheat, beans, barley, hay, paſture three years, oats, beans, barley, oats, ſummer fallow, &c. This order is found to anſwer ſo well, that the farm of Woodyett which exactly obſerves it, has always a better crop than any other in the pariſh. The three years paſture is the chief thing which diſtinguiſhes his plan, and probably contributes moſt to give it full effect.

The wheat and barley land for the following year, is begun to be ploughed about the end of harveſt; and, if the weather is at all favourable, the whole of this buſineſs is concluded before the winter ſets in. Wheat is ſown about the middle of September, thereafter, when the field has been ploughed five or ſix times. The lee intended for oats, is ploughed during the winter months, if the weather permits. Beans are ſown about the end of February, and beginning of March, although in a climate ſo inconſtant as ours, the ſeed time is uncertain. Beans ſown and ploughed down on the 9th of January produced one of the beſt crops perhaps we ever ſaw, and ſo wet was the ground a few years ago, that it was not till the 6th day of April that any ſeed was ſown in this country. The uſual time for ſowing oats is from the 20th of March to the end of April. The barley is ſown after this, and the laſt in order, though not the leaſt profitable, is the turnip, a ſpecies of huſbandry introduced of late by ſome of the heritors, in which the tenants do not ſeem diſpoſed to follow their example.

Beans are not ſown in the dryfields, as the ſoil is not ſufficiently ſtrong to bear a crop of this nature. Peas are ſometimes tried to advantage, but for the moſt part they run to ſtraw, without grain. The rotation of crops in the dryfields

is commonly this; oats for two years in ſucceſſion, and barley the third year with graſs ſeeds, hay for two years, and paſture for three or four. Potatoes are alſo raiſed in conſiderable quantities, and there is not a crop to which the ſoil is better ſuited. The return is very encouraging. A boll and a half, and often two bolls are digged where one peck was planted. Some lay the ſets in drills, which undoubtedly is the beſt way, as by this means the rows are diſtant from each other near 2 feet, the plough can be uſed among them, throughout the ſummer, and while this anſwers every purpoſe of ſummer fallow, the earth is raiſed about their roots, which makes them dry and mealy, and promotes vegetation. A field in potatoes is a fine preparation for wheat or barley. None of the red kind are here uſed, excepting the yam, which grows to a very large ſize, and affords good food for cattle.

The carſe farmers are careful to procure horſes of ſuperior ſize and ſtrength. For the moſt part the ploughing, ſummer fallow excepted, is conducted with two horſes, without a driver. Four muſt at times be employed in ſummer fallowing. Leſs progreſs perhaps may be made with two horſes than with four, but the work is better done, as two properly trained, and acquainted with the ploughman's voice, will proceed with more ſteadineſs, and in a ſtraighter direction than four, drawing unequally, and injudiciouſly driven by an ignorant boy.

In each farm there is a field in wheat, well dreſſed and limed. It has been found that dung is more advantageous to the wheat than lime, and ſeveral farmers now give lime to the barley fields, and dung to the wheat. One of them this year gave the wheat field a part of both, and the return is luxuriant.

Laſt year, not quite an acre and a half of the miniſter's

glebe, which had been in paſture for three preceding ſeaſons, was ploughed only once about the end of October, and ſown with wheat without lime or manure of any kind, and the crop produced L. 20 : 11 : 6. On boll was ſown and fifteen were reaped.

The huſbandman is at pains to find good ſeed for his lands. If the ſame grain is inceſſantly uſed it ſoon degenerates. This defect is remedied ſometimes by exchanging that of the carſe, for what grew in the dryfield. But the chief improvement this way is the introduction lately of the early red oats from the ſouth, which produces more meal, and ripens almoſt a month ſooner than any other known in this country, This promiſes to be a great acquiſition to thoſe whoſe crops are frequently in danger from a late and a wet harveſt.

The drill huſbandry is not practiſed here. Attempts were made to introduce it at Boquhan, and premiums were offered by the proprietor to the tenants who ſhould uſe it ſucceſsfully. Some had not the ſpirit to engage in it, and thoſe who began had not patience to perſevere.

Great improvement is made in the art of ploughing. Prizes are annually given by the gentlemen in the neighbourhood to thoſe who excel, and the young men eagerly contend for this honour. The old Scottiſh plough is moſt generally in uſe, but Small's is beginning to be in great repute. The old plough is frequently made by the farmers themſelves, and at little expence, which is an almoſt irreſiſtible argument in its favour.

The threſhing machine which abridges the labour, and enables the farmer to prepare his grain with great ſpeed for the market, is now ſet up, not only by ſome of the heritors, but alſo by ſuch of the tenants as have large farms. This is acknowledged to be one of the moſt uſeful inſtruments of huſbandry, that has ever been invented. It has no other inconvenience,

convenience, than that when a great quantity is threſhed out at once, the ſtraw is leſs reliſhed by the cattle, than when it is freſh from the flail.

Kilns, with heads made of caſt-iron, in which twelve bolls of oats can be dried in the courſe of 6 hours, have been built laſt year, by the chief heritors. Care muſt be taken not to over-heat them, and to turn the grain often, as in ſome inſtances where theſe precautions were neglected, the whole has been loſt.

The farmer juſtly complains of the heavy tax, which bears the name of multure. It is indeed a real oppreſſion, when many of the farms are bound to pay the miller the eleventh peck of meal, and in ſome caſes, a ſimilar quantity of beans, and barley. The tenants of Leckie are now free from this bondage. The miln is in the hands of the proprietor, and arable land is aſſeſſed at the rate of one ſhilling ſterling per acre for defraying every neceſſary expence, to which the tenants have chearfully ſubmitted.

It would be of great benefit to the country, if all that variety of ſervice uſually demanded by heritors, beſides the proper rent, were relinquiſhed. Great inconvenience ariſes from the obligation to which the tenants are ſubjected; to pay fowls, to drive coals, peats and dung; and in harveſt, to cut down the proprietor's grain. By being thus in a ſtate of requiſition, the tenant is often incapable of attending to his own affairs. On ſome very important occaſions, the opportunity on his own farm is loſt, and never returns.

There is an eſtabliſhed market in Stirling, for all ſorts of grain, to which the neighbouring farmers reſort; and they find a ready ſale. The price is uſually regulated by the Edinburgh and Haddington markets.

The whole ſecret of farming, ſeems to ly in preſerving the land dry and clean, in obſerving a regular rotation of crops, taking

taking care not to impoveriſh the ſoil, and to be ſeldom from home, eſpecially in ſeed-time and harveſt, ready to ſeize the favourable opportunity when it occurs. "The hand of the "diligent maketh rich".

Population.—It appears that there has been little variation in the population of the pariſh, for many years. The cotton mills at Balfron and Down, and the great demand at Glaſgow a few years ago, for weavers, maſons, and day-labourers, conſiderably diminiſhed the number of ſouls in this pariſh. The hope of regular employment, and better wages, enticed ſeveral families to ſettle in thoſe places; where the young and the old were conſtantly occupied. By the late ſtagnation of trade, however, many have been obliged to return to their former occupations.

Additions made to ſome farms, and the ſpirit of improvement prevailing among the heritors, which has led them to keep a great part of their lands in their own poſſeſſion, have baniſhed many inhabitants from the dryfields, where the ruins of cottages are frequently to be met with; but in the mean time, the village of Gargunnock, which in the memory of ſome ſtill alive, conſiſted only of 3 or 4 houſes, now contains about 400 ſouls.

Number of ſouls -	830	Perſons above 80 years of age - -	2
Males - -	403	Do. betwixt 70 and 80	9
Females - -	427	Do. betwixt 60 and 70	58
Families - -	178	Do. betwixt 50 and 60	83
Belonging to the Eſtabliſhed church -	808	Do. betwixt 40 and 50	78
Epiſcopalians -	3	Do. betwixt 30 and 40	104
Seceders - -	14	Do. betwixt 20 and 30	147
Relief ſociety - -	2	Do. betwixt 10 and 20	182
Cameronians - -	3	Do. Under 10 -	167
		Total	830

The

The population of this pariſh in 1755, was 956
In 1793, it is - - - 830

The number of ſouls diminiſhed - 126

Heritors 8, clergyman 1, ſchoolmaſter 1, ſtudents 2, farmers 55, weavers 10, ſhoemakers 2, taylors 7, maſons 3, wrights 4, baker 1, innkeepers 3, ſmiths 4, cooper 1, day-labourers 28, carriers to Edinburgh and Glaſgow 2, widowers 11, widows 38, batchelors above forty 8, unmarried women above forty 9, men-ſervants 94, and maid-ſervants 62.

Regiſter of Marriages.

	No.		No.
A. D.	1744—10	A. D.	1784— 8
	1745— 6		1785— 7
	1746— 8		1786— 9
	1747— 6		1787— 5
	1748— 8		1788— 5
	1749—13		1789—10
	1750— 7		1790— 9
	1751—14		1791—10
	1752—12		1792—12
	1753— 4		1793—11
Yearly average	— 8		- 8

Regiſter

Register of Baptisms.

	No.		No.		No.
A.D.	1639—25	A.D.	1744—36	A.D.	1784—24
	1640—35		1745—28		1785—23
	1641—33		1746—19		1786—20
	1642—28		1747—32		1787—22
	1643—35		1748—48		1788—19
	1644—27		1749—31		1789—20
	1645—39		1750—36		1790—26
	1646—26		1751—30		1791—14
	1647—22		1752—32		1792—15
	1648—26		1753—36		1793—20
Yearly average—	29	- - —	34	- - —	20

Register of Deaths.—No correct account can be given of the number of deaths, in this parish; as not a few of the inhabitants have their burying ground in other parishes, and it is only when the mort-cloth is required, which only happens when the funeral is in the parish-burying ground, that the death is inserted in the register. The tax on baptisms and deaths was paid reluctantly. The one on marriages did not occasion so much alarm, although it was thought some kind of reward ought rather to have been offered by the legislature, to those who entered regularly into that connexion. All have agreed, that there is wisdom in the repeal of those taxes.

Poor.—The number of poor who receive a stated monthly allowance from the Parochial funds, is sixteen, all of whom, one excepted, reside in the village. It is usual also, in the winter season, to give occasional supplies of meal and coals,

to

to families who may be in difficult circumſtances, but whoſe names are not on the poor's roll.

There is now no aſſeſſment for their maintenance. This has been unneceſſary for ſome years paſt, as ſupplies abundantly ſufficient have been obtained another way.

George Moir, Eſq. of Leckie, now deceaſed, generouſly added 100 guineas to the poor's ſtock in 1788. Being of the Scotch Epiſcopal communion, he ſeldom attended the Eſtabliſhed church. He ſaw however, and he had the humanity to acknowledge, that the poor of the pariſh ſuffered a loſs, by his abſence; and when he gave the ſum above mentioned, he ſaid, "he was only paying what he owed them." It is to be wiſhed, that wealthy heritors who either do not reſide upon their eſtates, or who are too much in the habit of being abſent from church, would imitate him, in this inſtance, and conſider the caſe of the poor, who muſt ſuſtain a loſs, when thoſe in affluent circumſtances withhold their weekly collections at the church. The chief reſource for ſupplying the poor in this pariſh, and in almoſt every pariſh in Scotland, ariſes from the collections made at the church on the Lord's day.

At the ſame time, there are perhaps few country pariſhes in Scotland, where there is more ample proviſion for the neceſſities of the poor, than in Gargunnock. The capital ſtock belonging to the Kirk Seſſion, amounts to L. 365 Sterling, the intereſt of which, together with the collections, mort-cloth-money, the fees paid at marriages, baptiſms, &c. afford the widow, and the fatherleſs, the aged and infirm, a conſiderable portion of the neceſſaries of life *.

* An addition was made to the funds of the poor in 1784, by a very ſingular circumſtance. Two old women, ſiſters, who lived in the village of Gargunnock, had for many years, every appearance of extreme indigence; though

The care of the poor is laid on the Kirk Seſſion. A committee is appointed to enquire into the circumſtances of thoſe who petition for ſupply; and more or leſs is granted, according as the caſe ſeems to require. Few have leſs than half a crown per month; while, four, five, ſix, and in ſome caſes, even ten ſhillings are diſtributed to thoſe, who are abſolutely helpleſs. A perſon muſt reſide in the pariſh, at leaſt three years, before he can be entitled to the public charity.

No public begging is allowed. We are often harraſſed by vagrants from other places; but they are not permitted to acquire a reſidence in the pariſh. One ſeldom gives them any thing, without having cauſe to repent it. They ſpend every thing they receive at the firſt ale-houſe; and for the reſt of the day they become a public nuiſance. The conſtables are called, who ſee them out of the pariſh; but this does not operate as a puniſhment, while they are ſtill at liberty. It would be of great advantage, if in every pariſh, there was ſome place of confinement for people of this deſcription, to keep them in awe, when they might be inclined to diſturb the peace of the town, or of the neighbourhood.

Church,

though without making any application for aſſiſtance from the pariſh. One of them at laſt, applied to be received on the poor's liſt; and as no doubt was entertained of her poverty, ſhe received four ſhillings per month. She died about ſix months after the commencement of her penſion. On examining her bed-cloaths, one purſe (of gold and ſilver), was found after another, till the ſum amounted to upwards of forty pounds ſterling. Some old cheſts and barrels were found ſtored with beef, meal, cheeſe, and various other kinds of proviſion; and it was evident that *the poor women* had lived in great affluence. The relations of the deceaſed, on hearing of the diſcovery, came from a diſtance, to lay claim to her effects. But according to the ſettled rule of the pariſh, ſhe had bequeathed all her effects to the poor, at the time ſhe was received on the poor's liſt. One half was allowed to be the property of the ſiſter, who had received no penſion from the pariſh. The

other

Church, &c.—The church was rebuilt in 1774, is very neatly fitted up, and in excellent repair. On the top of the eaſt gable, there is the figure of a croſs, and on the weſt, that of a creſcent. Theſe were upon the gables of the old church, and have been replaced upon the new. This might have given offence a century ago; but the people are now wiſer than to quarrel with a ſtone of any ſhape or appearance.

The manſe, which was built for a bachelor, is too ſmall for the accomodation of a family. Few houſes of the kind, however, are more pleaſantly ſituated. There is a good garden. The ſoil and expoſure are ſo favourable, that crops and fruits, of various kinds, are reaped from it earlier than from any other in the pariſh. The ſtipend is about L. 80 ſterling, with a glebe of 6 acres. Col. Eidingtoun, the proprietor of the eſtate of Gargunnock, is the patron.

Pariſh School.—The ſchool-houſe is ſituated on a riſing ground, at the weſt end of the village. It has two floors, the firſt for the ſchool, the ſecond for the habitation of the ſchool-maſter. During the winter ſeaſon, there may be 50 or 60 ſcholars; and yet the whole income, including ſalary, perquiſites as Seſſion-clerk, and ſchool fees, ſcarcely amounts annually to L. 16. The reading of Engliſh is taught for a merk Scots per quarter, writing and arithmetic for 2 ſhillings; fees, which are by no means adequate to the troubleſome taſk of the maſter. When a man decently qualified ſubmits to the drudgery of training up children in ſeveral important branches of education, common ſenſe muſt revolt at the idea

other half became the property of the Kirk Seſſion, to the great mortification of the relations; who certainly deſerved this diſappointment, as they had taken no notice of the deceaſed, while ſhe lived.

of his being in a worſe ſituation than the day-labourer. It is hoped ſomething will be done for a better proviſion to the maſters of pariſh-ſchools.

Village.—The village, conſiſting of about 90 houſes, chiefly of one floor, and thatched, is ſituated on the ſide of a hill, part of the barony of Gargunnock. The military road from Stirling to Dumbarton, paſſes through it. The beſt inn upon the road is here, few houſes of that kind are kept in ſuch good order. It is kept remarkably clean and neat, a circumſtance not very common in houſes of the ſame deſcription.

Each inhabitant has a ſmall garden. The one half of the property belonging to the village was fued out about fifty years ago, at the rate of 20 ſhillings ſterling per acre, the other half at a later period was fued at 40s. There is no kind of trade or manufacture in the village; not even a grocery ſhop that deſerves the name. Supplies of all the neceſſary articles are got from Stirling weekly, or by carriers from Edinburgh or Glaſgow. There are ſome weavers, taylors, and ſhoemakers, and the other inhabitants are chiefly day labourers.

Much inconvenience aroſe from the want of a ſurgeon, but this is now removed. Dr. Moir of Leckie the firſt heritor, and a gentleman of great eminence in his profeſſion, is ever ready to give his advice and aſſiſtance to the villagers without a fee. There is no writer or attorney among them. When any diſpute ariſes, which is very ſeldom, it is either ſettled by the Miniſter, or by Mr Graham of Micklewood, a juſtice of the peace, in whoſe judgement parties acquieſce.

Antiquities.—A little ſouthward of the village, there is a conical height called the Kier-hill, which is evidently artificial, and ſeems to have been a military work. There are remains

mains of a ditch or rampart of a circular form, which proves that it is not of Roman origin. It is probably of later date, and appears to have been the place from which Sir William Wallace ſallied forth on the night when he took by ſurprize the Peel of Gargunnock.

In one of the dryfields of Boquhan, ſome pieces of braſs armour and points of ſpears were found a few years ago by a tenant, when digging for limeſtone. A great quantity of human bones were alſo diſcovered in the ſame ſpot, the remains probably of the ſlain at the battle of Ballochleam, which was fought in the adjoining fields.

There is no object of natural curioſity in this pariſh equal to the glen of Boquhan. The road made on the eaſt ſide by the preſent proprietor, leads to a moſt romantic view. But, if a perſon has leiſure and perſeverance to deſcend and walk along the bottom of the glen, at the field of Old-hall, he will be ſurprized at every ſtep, with a ſcene perfectly wild, as though nature were in ruins.

Local Diſadvantages.—This pariſh is ſituated on the north ſide of the hill. In the higher parts of the dryfields, the ſun is not ſeen during the winter months. Coal muſt be brought from Bannockburn, 10 miles diſtant; for although marks of coal can be obſerved in ſeveral places within the pariſh, no attempts have been made to diſcover it. The tenants on the banks of the Forth have boats, but theſe in their preſent ſtate are found inconvenient and dangerous for horſes and loaded carts. A bridge is much wanted near the lands of Micklewood. The one at the ford of the Frew, does not ſufficiently accommodate the inhabitants of a tract of fertile country, for many miles on both ſides of the river.

Roads.

Roads.—The military road from Stirling to Dumbarton, made betwixt 30 and 40 years ago, and which paſſes through the centre of this pariſh, is now by Act of Parliament to have a new line of direction, and to be made a turnpike road. It is hoped the truſtees will confine the exerciſe of their power to what is immediately uſeful and neceſſary. Any alterations in order to avoid heights, or to leſſen the diſtance, where that can be conveniently done, would be readily ſubmitted to by all, from the evident advantage reſulting from them. But, if new lines of conſiderable length are propoſed, where the grounds muſt be purchaſed and re-incloſed; or, if the road ſhall be ſo formed as to render plantations and improvements uſeleſs, which have been carrying on for years in the faith that the preſent line of road was to be permanent; if it ſhall be ſo directed, as to abandon a number of thriving villages, or ſo unneceſſarily widened as to break in upon many beautiful ſtrips of planting, by which means a debt muſt be incurred that can only be repaid by a heavy toll on the grain, the coal and the lime, it is doubtful, whether the good or the evil of ſuch alterations would preponderate. The truſtees have no intereſt but to act for the general advantage of the country, and there is no reaſon to doubt that this will be the object of their chief attention.

Game, &c.—In this pariſh there are the heath-fowl, hares, and partridges.

The commencement of partridge ſhooting, as early as the beginning of September, is very often a cauſe of their ſcarcity, as the tenants are tempted to deſtroy the eggs for the ſake of the crops, which are ſometimes much injured by the ſportſmen and dogs.

The cleft of Ballochleam is ſtill remarkable for the hawks,

for which it was in great requeſt in former times, when falconry was in faſhion.

A crow perfectly white, was found laſt ſpring on a tree at Boquhan.

The farmer ſuffers a real loſs by flocks of pigeons which cover his fields in ſeed time, and make frequent viſits to his wheat before it is cut down; and thinks a tax on pigeon houſes would be a wiſe meaſure.

Diſeaſes.—Rheumatiſm, fevers, conſumptions, are the chief diſorders of the more aged inhabitants, and the ſmall-pox, the meaſles, and hooping cough, of the young. Not a few are afflicted with the ſcrophula, but the people have little conception of its effects on their poſterity. There is ſtill an unlucky prejudice againſt innoculating for the ſmall-pox, while the people have a ſtrong inclination to frequent the houſe where the diſeaſe exiſts, not perceiving, that by doing ſo they communicate the infection to their children as effectually, and a thouſand times more fatally than by the lancet. Dr. Moir innoculates gratis, and has had conſiderable influence in reconciling the common people to a practice, which God in his providence hath remarkably bleſſed for the preſervation of the human race.

It is difficult to determine whether the carſe or the dryfield, be moſt favourable to health. Some have lived to a great age in both; but it is certain, that as the tenants of the carſe have the greateſt ſhare of labour, ſo they ſeem moſt capable of enduring it; and if a greater degree of labour ſupported with vigour indicates health, or promotes it, it may be conjectured, that the carſe is fully as healthful as the dryfield. It would perhaps be of advantage, if thoſe who are moſt expoſed to fatigue, to cold, or to moiſture, would uſe a cotton, inſtead of a linen ſhirt. It might contribute to prevent thoſe

thoſe rheumatic complaints, to which they are ſo often ſubject.

Price of labour, wages, &c.—A few years ago, a man ſervant for the farm, who lived with the farmer, could have been found for 5 or 6 pounds ſterling per year, but now L. 10 or 12 are given. Women ſervants who lately were engaged at L. 2 10s. are now ſcarcely ſatisfied with L. 4. Their purſe is juſt as empty as before, but there is a material change in the article of dreſs. The day labourer who once wrought at ſix-pence or eight-pence per day, now receives a ſhilling, and in ſeed time and harveſt, his victuals beſides. Laſt harveſt, 1794, the wages roſe to ſixteen and eighteen-pence per day, beſides victuals, which is by far the higheſt rate of wages remembered in this country.

The day-wage-men for the whole pariſh reſide in the village. They are called forth to their labour in the morning, by the ſound of pipe or drum, and have the ſame ſignal when they retire in the evening. They are a ſober induſtrious contented ſet of men, and though their food be ſimple, and their dreſs and dwellings mean, it is believed that they have more real enjoyment, than thoſe who are in the more elevated ſituations.

Food and dreſs.—The aged inhabitants are ſurprized at the change in the article of living, and what is evidently a proof of the wealth of the country, is unreaſonbly the ſubject of their lamentation. It is ſeldom that any of them live beyond their income. The other extreme ought alſo to be avoided. More is expected than the pooreſt fare, and the meaneſt dreſs from men of opulence. When the farmer is only careful how he may lend his money, and add to his ſtock, and lives at home as penuriouſly as when he had nothing, he denies himſelf

himſelf the proper uſe of the bounty of Providence, and is really poor in the midſt of his proſperity. There are few ſuch in this pariſh. They all aſſemble at church, clean, and in decent attire; many of the women in black cloaks and bonnets, and the younger ſort adorned with ribbons. It gives general diſguſt, however, when the dreſs is unſuitable to the ſtation. There is ſometimes a contention for pre-eminence in gaudy ſhew, which is ſeverely cenſured, eſpecially when the maid ſervant cannot be diſtinguiſhed from the miſtreſs.

All the men, with a very few exceptions, wear hats, and what may be thought remarkable, there is only one wig in the whole pariſh. Tea is univerſally uſed. Even the pooreſt families have it occaſionally, and the laſt cup is qualified with a little whiſky, which is ſuppoſed to correct all the bad effects of the tea. There are few families without ſome butcher meat laid up for the winter. All agree, that they are better clothed and fed than their forefathers; and ſeem contented with the lot aſſigned them.

Price of Proviſions.—Oat meal is from 15s. to 17s. Sterling per boll; peas and barley meal about 10s. do; potatoes, corn meaſure, 5s. do; butter 12s per ſtone; common cheeſe 4s, and a better kind made on Saturday's evening 5s. 6d. per ſtone; poultry at a reaſonable price. A good fowl may be got for 1s ſterling; eggs at 4d. per dozen. The price of neceſſaries in this pariſh varies according to the demand at Stirling on the market days.

Great ſcarcity was apprehended in 1783, through the failure of the preceding crop; but upon the return of peace, a large quantity of white peas being commiſſioned from England by a man of public ſpirit, and grinded into meal, aſſiſted the other expedients which were then adopted to prevent a famine in this part of the kingdom.

Character, Manners, and Cuſtoms.—The character of the inhabitants of the pariſh is ſobriety. They profeſs to fear God, and honour the king. In their deportment they are grave, and in their ſpeech conſiderate. They are remarkably attached to the inſtitutions of religion, and all of them, (22 perſons excepted), worſhip together at the pariſh church. During the late attempts of deſigning men to throw the country into confuſion, not an individual in this pariſh joined the clubs of pretended reformers, or ſhewed the leaſt diſaffection to our happy conſtitution. The only reform they wiſh, is in their own perſons and families, where they acknowledge there are many things which need to be corrected; but they leave affairs of ſtate to thoſe who are lawfully appointed to govern. There has been no one here charged with any capital crime, for a long courſe of years. The miniſter's garden is ſituated near the high road, and might be eaſily plundered, and yet he cannot ſay that he has been robbed of a ſingle apple, ſince he came to the pariſh, upwards of 7 years ago. There is very ſeldom occaſion for church diſcipline; no cauſe has been carried from the ſeſſion to the preſbytery for many years.

The ſacrament of the Lord's Supper is diſpenſed twice in every year. And as there is no ſtated allowance to defray the expence of the communion in winter, the pariſhioners chearfully contribute for this purpoſe.

Young and old are diſtinguiſhed for polite attention to ſtrangers. Men of ſuperior rank have a reſpectful bow from every one they meet; for people here have not been taught the new doctrine of liberty and equality.

It is ſeldom there are ſocial meetings. Marriages, baptiſms, funerals, and the concluſion of the harveſt, are almoſt the only occaſions of feaſting. At theſe times, there is much unneceſſary expence. Marriages uſually happen

in April and November. The month of May is cautiouſly avoided. A principal tenant's ſon or daughter has a croud of attendants at marriage, and the entertainment laſts for two days at the expence of the parties. The company at large pay for the muſic.

The manner of conducting funerals in the country needs much amendment. From the death to the interment, the houſe is thronged by night and day, and the converſation is often very unſuitable to the occaſion. The whole pariſh is invited at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the day of the funeral, but it is ſoon enough to attend at 3 o'clock afternoon. Every one is entertained with a variety of meats and drinks. Not a few return to the dirge, and ſometimes forget what they have been doing, and where they are. Attempts have been lately made to provide a remedy for this evil; but old cuſtoms are not eaſily aboliſhed.

The dregs of ſuperſtition are ſtill to be found. The leſs informed ſuſpect ſomething like witchcraft about poor old women; and are afraid of their evil eye among the cattle. If a cow is ſuddenly taken ill, it is aſcribed to ſome extraordinary cauſe. If a perſon, when called to ſee one, does not ſay, "I wiſh her luck," there would be a ſuſpicion he had ſome bad deſign. It is but juſt to ſay, that the generality of the people are ſuperior to theſe vulgar prejudices, though the traces of them are ſtill to be found.

There is one prevailing cuſtom among our country people; which is ſometimes productive of much evil. Every thing is bought and ſold over a bottle. The people who go to the fair, in the full poſſeſſion of their faculties, do not always tranſact their buſineſs, or return to their homes, in the ſame ſtate.

It is but juſtice, however, to ſay, that a diſpoſition to vir-

tue, industry, loyalty and peace, characterizes the inhabitants of the parish of Gargunnock.

Valuation.—The valuation of the whole parish is L. 4127: 15: 2. Scottish money; but the real rental is above L. 3000 sterling. About 30 years ago, it was only the half of that sum. There is now an increase at every term. No farm is now let without an additional rent. Applications are made for the farm, long before the lease expires. The separate estates, which comprehend the whole parish, are Leckie and Kepdarroch, Boquhan, Gargunnock, Micklewood, Redhall, and Culmore.

NUMBER

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF ALVA.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN DUNCAN.

Name.

IN the writings of the laſt century, and before that time, the name of this pariſh was generally written Alvath, or Alveth; but that mode of ſpelling has been diſuſed almoſt a complete century. Whether the preſent name, Alva, be of Gaelic origin, is not altogether certain. Fanciful etymologies can never yield ſatisfaction to the judicious antiquary; and therefore when nothing rational can be offered, it ſeems better to acknowledge ignorance, than to offer what can neither amuſe nor inform.

Situation.—This pariſh and barony is a part of the county of Stirling, although it happens to be totally disjoined from every part of it. No certain account can now be given, how this has happened. It is ſurrounded by the ſhire of Clackmannan on the eaſt, ſouth, and weſt, and on the north, it is bounded by a part of the county of Perth. It extends in length, from eaſt to weſt, ſomewhat more than two miles and

and a half; and from ſouth to north, rather more than four miles. Tillicoultry, is the adjacent pariſh on the eaſt. The river Devon, which has its ſource in the barony of Alva, after a long courſe, at firſt almoſt due eaſt; and then ſouthward through Glen-devon, makes a ſudden turn weſtward, near the church of Foſſoway, and paſſing through the pariſhes of Muckhart, Dollar, and Tillicoultry, gently glides along the ſouth boundary of this pariſh, and divides it from the pariſhes of Alloa and Clackmannan, which are ſituated on the ſouth*. The pariſh of Logie is next adjacent on the weſt.

Extent, &c.—The lands of Alva extend over a very conſiderable portion of that long range of hills, diſtinguiſhed by the name of Ochills; the remaining grounds are extended over part of that valley, which lies between the foot of theſe hills, and the river Devon. The mean breadth, from the banks of the river to the bottom of the hill, may be about three fifth parts of a mile.

That portion of the Ochills now under review, when ſeen from the ſouth at the diſtance of a mile or two, appear to be one continued range, with little variation in height; but as the mountain ſlopes towards the ſouth, it is interſected by exceedingly deep and narrow glens, through each of which, ſtreams of water run, that diſcharge themſelves into the Devon.

* It is impoſſible to view this little river of clear water, without admiring its beauty, in its wonderful paſſage through the rock, at the Rumbling Bridge, and Caldron Lin; and its numberleſs meandrings, after it deſcends into the valley, eaſt of Dollar; whence it glides generally in a deep bed with little fall, till it reaches the Frith of Forth, at the Cambas miln, directly oppoſite to where its ſource began. When ſwelled by heavy rains, or the melting ſnow, it overflows its banks, and covers the greateſt part of the low grounds.

von. By means of theſe, the fore ground of this part of the Ochills, is divided into three ſeparate hills, diſtinguiſhed by the names of Wood-hill, Middle-hill, and Weſt-hill of Alva. On the brow of this laſt hill, is a very high perpendicular rock, which, for what reaſon is not known, has obtained the name of Craig Leith. It has been long beyond memory, remarkable for the reſidence of that ſpecies of hawks, the falcon, which is uſed for the diverſion of hunting. One pair, and only one pair, it is affirmed by the inhabitants of the place, build a neſt on the front of this tremendous rock. Theſe are ſaid to hatch their young annually; and, when their progeny are of a proper age, the parents force them to ſeek a new habitation, till at laſt, however long they may be ſuppoſed to live, the parents themſelves muſt yield their reſidence to their ſurvivors. In former times, when that ſport was in faſhion, a hawk of this breed was thought a valuable acquiſition. They are ſtill in great requeſt among our own nobility, who love that ſport; and very lately, an Engliſh gentleman noted for his ſkill in that diverſion, ſent his ſervant all the way from Yorkſhire, to procure ſome of this breed. In order to come at the neſt, he was let down by a rope faſtened round his waiſt, while the end of it was held faſt by ten or twelve people, who ſtood at a convenient diſtance from the edge of the precipice; and he was obſerved ſcrambling on the face of the rock, exploring the neſt of the bird.

The houſe of Alva ſtands on an eminence, projecting from the baſe of the Wood-hill, and near the eaſt end of the pariſh. The height of this projected part of the hill, is about 220 feet above the water of Devon, which runs in the valley below. The hill riſes immediately behind the houſe, to the height of 1400 feet, making the whole height

1620

1620 feet *. From the summit of this hill, there is a very extensive prospect to the north east, the south, and south west. The view to the north west, is a little interrupted by the hill of Dalmiot, a part of the Ochills, lying in the parish of Logie. From the top of the Wood-hill, however, the mouth of the Frith of Forth, the Bass, North Berwick Law, with the windings of the Forth, can easily be descried, together with the coasts of Fife and east Lothian, &c.

The village of Alva is situated at a small distance from the bottom of the West hill. A small rivulet, which issues from the glen which separates the West from the Middle hill, runs along the east side of the village; and not only affords a constant and plentiful supply of water, but adds very much to the beauty of the village. This receives a farther addition, from a thriving plantation of forest trees growing on a steep bank on the east side of the rivulet, and affording a comfortable shelter from the north east winds, which, of all others, are the most violent in this district. It is not certainly known, when this village began to be built. There is undoubted evidence, however, of Alva being a parish above 500 years ago †; and it is probable that a village, very inconsiderable perhaps, may then have existed. Even at present the village is not extensive, and does not contain much above 130 families, including a few single persons each of whom occupy a part of a house. About the end of the last, and beginning of this

* The hill continues to rise gradually for about two miles farther north, until it reaches the top of Ben-Cloch, which is the highest point of the Alva hills, and the summit of all the Ochills; and according to the observation taken by Mr Udney, land surveyor, is about 2420 feet above the level of the Devon. The view from the top of Ben-Cloch is the most extensive and beautiful any where to be found, and is visited by all travellers of curiosity who delight in fine prospects.

† Vide Chartulary of Cambuskenneth.

this century, the late Sir John Erſkine, grandfather of the preſent Sir James Sinclair Erſkine, then proprietor, granted feus of a ſmall parcel of ground to ſeveral inhabitants, on which they built a cottage and formed a garden; and a plan appears to have been deſigned by that gentleman, of building a village in the form of a ſquare, two ſides of which have been actually built. The other houſes appear to have been ſet down, without any regular order, and where a convenient ſpot for a garden could be obtained. About the year 1767, the preſent Lord Alva, reſolving to enlarge the village, granted feus to ſuch as were willing to build; in conſequence of which, one complete row, conſiſting of about 20 houſes, was erected in one ſeaſon, each houſe having a ſmall garden of a few falls, equal in breadth to the extent of the front of the houſe. A few years after, another row of houſes parallel to the former, and with gardens laid out in the ſame manner, was completed. The rate at which the ground was at that time feued, was at firſt 13s. and 4d. per fall, or 36 ſquare yards; it advanced by degrees to 15s. and 16s. per fall, as the premium or purchaſe money, together with four-pence the fall of annual feu duty. Taking the medium rate of 15s. it will be found to amount to L. 120 ſterling per acre as the price of the ground, and L. 2:13:4 as the annual rent to the ſuperior. What proprietor would heſitate to grant feus upon ſuch terms as theſe; eſpecially, when it is conſidered, that the annual duty may be converted into ſome ſtaple commodity.

The arable ſoil of this pariſh may be properly divided into four different kinds. The firſt, which extends ſouthward from the bottom of the hills, conſiſts of a rich hazel mold intermixed with gravel and ſmall ſtones; this is ſucceeded by a different kind of ſoil, being a ſtratum of moſs over a bed of clay, and extending from 50 to 100 yards in breadth. In ſome places, this moſs is found to be 7 feet in depth. Next

to that, is a ſtrong rich clay, extending a conſiderable way towards the river Devon; then follows what is called haughing ground, ſuch as is uſually found upon the banks of rivers; the banks of Devon being generally overflowed twice or thrice every year, great quantities of ſand are left on the ground as far as the inundation extends. The ſoil at the bed of the river appears to be in many places above 20 feet deep. The grounds of this pariſh produce the uſual crops of wheat, barley, peas, beans, oats, clover, and potatoes.

The whole arable grounds within the pariſh, have been incloſed, ſeveral years ago, with ditches and hedges. Thoſe fields, which lie immediately below the houſe of Alva, at the bottom of the Wood-hill, and extending near to the banks of Devon, were incloſed, and planted with rows of oaks, aſhes, and other foreſt trees, by the late Sir John Erſkine, about 70 years ago, and were probably among the firſt incloſures in this part of the country. Theſe have been chiefly in graſs for a great many years, and are let annually to graziers, at the rate of from 25 to 30 ſhillings per acre. The general ſtate of agriculture, in this, as well as in all the neighbouring pariſhes, was very rude and wretched, till within the laſt thirty years. And although the ſoil muſt be allowed to be equal at leaſt, in quality, to that in the moſt fertile parts of Scotland; yet truth requires us to acknowledge, that thoſe who were employed in cultivating it, were late in arriving at any conſiderable improvements. Wheat, juſtly eſteemed the moſt beneficial of all crops, was not cultivated in this pariſh, till within the laſt fifteen years. Clean ſummer fallow, and proper dreſſing with lime and dung, were rarely, if ever attempted. Good example has at laſt opened mens eyes; and experience has demonſtrated that the ſoil, when properly cultivated, is capable of the higheſt improvement, and is fit for producing wheat, and all the ſtrong-

eſt grain. The tenants begin now to perceive the importance of fallowing, liming, and cleaning their lands, to obtain good returns, and the advantage of having broad clover for ſummer food for their horſes, and being able to work them conſtantly, inſtead of ſending them (as they did formerly), to graze for five months idle on the hills, at a conſiderable expence. Any perſon who has been acquainted with the ſtate of farming in this pariſh and its immediate neighbourhood thirty years ago, muſt have been led to aſcribe the ſlow progreſs of improvement, in a conſiderable degree, to the very ſmall number of acres, of which the far greater part of the farms conſiſted. The ſtock of the farmer, may be conſidered, as in general, proportioned to the extent of his farm, which at that time did not commonly exceed thirty or forty acres. It was well, if, according to the mode of culture practiſed at that time, he could pay his rent, and provide a mean ſubſiſtence for himſelf and his family. Another circumſtance, which affected in a very particular manner the ſtate of farming in this pariſh, and its neighbourhood, was the practice of driving coals from the coal pits on the ſouth banks of Devon, to the ſhore of Alloa. To this labour, the farmers on the eſtates where the coals were raiſed, were bound by their leaſes; and without entering more particularly into the ſubject, it muſt be obvious, how pernicious the effect of this practice muſt have been, with reſpect to the proper and neceſſary operations upon the farm. Such, however, is the contagion of example, that ſome of the farmers in this pariſh, who were under no obligation to be carriers on the eſtate of another proprietor, and excepting during one very ſhort period, when coal was worked within the pariſh, had no occaſion to be concerned in it, from ignorance and unſkilfulneſs reſpecting their proper employment, and from the deſire of a little gain, earned at the expence of ſevere labour to themſelves and horſes, with the *tear and wear* of

carts, rude and simple as they were at that time, were foolish enough to join the farmers in their neighbourhood, and employ themselves during a considerable part of the summer, in carrying the great coal to the port of Alloa. They were at last however, wisely prohibited by Lord Alva, the late proprietor of this barony, from following this absurd and unprofitable occupation; indeed when they began to acquire a taste for improving their farms, and to reap the benefit of their improvements, they were soon convinced of the inutility of their ancient practice; and very probably would have abandoned it of their own accord. The extent of the farms has been, within the last twenty years, considerably enlarged; the consequence of which has been, that besides imitating the example of the gradual improvements in agriculture, the farmer has been enabled to make a more respectable appearance than formerly. It is evident from the writings of those, who have treated of the subject of agriculture, that it has been considered as a difficult problem, to state the just and reasonable extent of a farm, or to fix the number of acres, that one farm should contain; and from the different opinions which have been given, it may be inferred, that perhaps no general rule can be laid down. A general observation however, may be offered; that the farm should at least be so extensive, that the profits of the stock employed in cultivating it, should enable the farmer to live decently and comfortably, and in a manner above the other country tradesmen who surround him. In a small farm of 40, or even 50 acres, allowing it to be as productive as can be supposed, and the rent moderate; still the profits arising to the farmer, cannot possibly be so great, as to raise his state much above that of the lower class of manufacturers, who inhabit country parishes. According to the division of farms that has hitherto taken place in this parish, which has been from 30 to 60, or not more than 70 acres,

acres, they can hardly be deemed ſo large, as to place the farmer in a reſpectable ſituation.

From the deſcription already given of the ſituation of the lands of this pariſh, they are naturally divided into arable and paſture ground. The three hills are incomparably the moſt beautiful in every reſpect of the whole range of the Ochills, from Glen devon on the eaſt, to their termination, near the bridge of Alloa on the weſt. They are cloathed with the richeſt verdure, at all ſeaſons, and produce graſs of the fineſt quality, and in the greateſt variety. They are not ſo ſteep, ſo rugged or inacceſſible, as thoſe immediately weſtward in the pariſh of Logie; and they preſent a more regular, nobler, and bolder aſpect, than any of thoſe that lie immediately on the eaſt. They have been now for many years, divided into two ſeparate farms, for ſheep; one comprehending the Weſt-hill, the other the Middle-hill, together with that part of the Wood-hill, which lies behind the fence, or wall, that ſurrounds the brow of that part of the hill, immediately above the houſe of Alva. 'Tis ſuppoſed that the former of theſe is capable of maintaining about 100 ſcore of ſheep, and the latter from 90 to 95 ſcore. The rent of the Weſt-hill, has been greatly increaſed, ſince the year 1759*. On the higheſt and back-lying ground, where the pariſh of Alva marches with an eſtate belonging to Mr Murray of Abercairney, in the pariſh

* The rent of the Weſt-hill in the year 1759, was very inconſiderable. There was then little demand for butcher-meat in this country; and the profits of grazing were very low. When the next leaſe was granted in 1775, when the demand for ſheep and wool began to increaſe, the tenant was taken bound to pay more than twice the former rent. From the rapid progreſs of manufactures and of luxury, and from the high character of the wool and of the ſheep fed on the Alva hills, it is believed that thoſe fine ſheep-farms are ſtill capable of a conſiderable advance of rent.

pariſh of Blackford, the ſoil is moſſy, and produces heath in great abundance, together with a ſtrong and coarſe graſs. This however is reſorted to by the ſtronger and older part of the flocks; and theſe, 'tis ſaid by the ſhepherds, are ſeldom obſerved to quit their wild retreat, or to come forward in queſt of the tender and more kindly graſs, excepting perhaps when compelled by the rigour of the ſtorm, to ſeek ſhelter on the fore ground, or lower part of the hills. At the ſame time, it muſt be remarked, that ſnow never lies for any length of time, on the face of thoſe hills *. It is remarkable however, that at the bottom of a ridge of rock, near to the ſummit of the high hill called Ben-cloch, where it is ſheltered from every wind, ſnow is frequently ſeen lying till the month of June. What is obſerved to reſiſt ſo long the ſummer's heat, from the ſingularity of its extended but narrow form to the ſpectator's eye who views it at a diſtance, has received the appellation of Lady Alva's web.

It has never been the practice of the ſheep-farmers here, to breed young ſheep on theſe hills. Although they have generally a few ſcores of ewes on their farms; yet their lambs are commonly ſold to the butcher. Of late years indeed, ſome attempts have been made to rear a few young ſheep, but theſe bear no proportion to the number of their ſtock. The farmers go every year about mid-ſummer, to the markets at

* Snow ſeldom lies here more than two or three days; and even during that time, the ſheep brouze on the young furze, and are in as good condition, as if they had been fed on hay. The flocks have ſo much ſhelter from the ſituation of the hills, and from the plantations, that they have never materially ſuffered from the heavieſt falls of ſnow. In January 1794, ſo fatal to the ſheep and cattle in the ſouthern parts of Scotland, and in the north of England, the farmers in the hills of Alva were ſo fortunate as ſcarcely to loſe a ſheep.

at Linton, and purchaſe ſheep of a year old. Theſe, according to the cuſtom of the ſheep-farmers in the ſouth, have been ſmeared with tar, but that practice is not found neceſſary in this diſtrict. After they have been ſhorn three times white, as they expreſs it, they are ſold about Auguſt and September, as fit for the butcher's uſe.

The next thing that is worthy of notice in this pariſh, is the ſtate of the woollen manufactures. Theſe have been carried on in the village of Alva, for more than a century at leaſt. They conſiſt chiefly of Scots blankets and ſerges. The former are made from 9d. to 1s. the Scots yard, and the latter from 10d. to 15d. and a few from 16d. to 18d. per yard. It is more than probable, that this ſpecies of manufacture had flouriſhed a great many years ago, in the neighbouring village of Tillicoultry; as an evidence of this, it is at this day, known among the ſhopkeepers of the Lawnmarket of Edinburgh, by the name of Tillicoultry ſerges. The number of looms conſtantly employed at preſent in this village is 67. The length of each web may be reckoned at 80 yards, and taking the average value at 10d. or 11d. per yard, the groſs produce will amount to from L. 7000 to L. 8000 ſter. annually. The manufacturers make uſe chiefly of Engliſh wool in their ſerges and blankets, and this partly ſhort, and partly combed wool. That which is produced from the ſheep that paſture on the Ochills, is commonly manufactured by the people of the country for their own private uſe. A very conſiderable ſum is annually expended by the weavers in this place, in purchaſing wool, which it is impoſſible to aſcertain with any degree of preciſion. Theſe ſerges are ſold not only in Edinburgh, but likewiſe in Stirling, Glaſgow, Greenock, Perth, and Dundee. The fineſt kinds of ſerges are ſometimes dreſſed and dyed by the traders in Stirling, and ſold as coarſe

coarſe ſhalloons. A conſiderable quantity of the coarſer ſizes, have of late years been purchaſed by ſadlers as a neceſſary article in their buſineſs. This trade is at preſent in a very flouriſhing condition, and from this circumſtance the manufacturers here are able to pay 50s. rent for an acre of land, and many of them 40s. for a cow's graſs. It were to be wiſhed, perhaps, that a ſpecies of manufacture more valuable and more extenſively uſeful were introduced, ſuch as an imitation of the flannels manufactured in England. But it has always been found exceedingly difficult to give a new direction to habits long eſtabliſhed and confirmed; and until ſome perſon poſſeſſed of an enterpriſing ſpirit together with a conſiderable ſtock ſhall ariſe, an alteration of the preſent mode of carrying on the manufactures here, cannot reaſonably be expected.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this pariſh, from a late accurate ſurvey, is found to be 612. And of theſe, there are

From 10 years of age and under	165
—— 10 to 20	132
—— 20 to 30	84
—— 30 to 40	94
—— 40 to 50	52
—— 50 to 60	52
—— 60 to 70	27
—— 70 to 80	4
—— 80 o 90	2
	612

Lif

List of Births and Burials from 1720 *to* 1791.

From the beginning of 1720 to the end of 1729	Marriages	*Births.*			*Burials.*				
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Adults	Children
	45	113	122	235	28	29	57	34	23
—1730 to 1739	46	93	88	181	81	75	156	99	87
—1740 to 1749	33	47	80	147	68	98	166	110	56
—1750 to 1759	46	87	88	175	58	43	101	66	35
—1760 to 1769	64	103	113	216	81	99	180	101	79
—1770 to 1779	53	122	109	231	72	76	148	94	54
—1780 to 1791	70	144	142	286	127	115	242	119	123

The numbers of this parish have not increased in any considerable degree since the year 1760, as appears from lists regularly made up every four or five years from that period.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The parish of Alva was, long before the Reformation, in the diocese of Dunkeld, and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the bishop of that see. From an extract taken from the Chartulary of Cambuskenneth, in the neighbourhood of Stirling, it appears that the church of Alva was a mensal church, as it is called, belonging to that abbacy, and that the monks performed duty there, from the want of a sufficient fund for the maintenance of a regular clergyman to reside in the parish. In the 1260, Richard, Bishop of Dunkeld, made a donation to the monks of the church of St. Mary at Cambuskenneth, of the church of Alva "with all its legal pertinents," and dispensing with their employing a vicar to officiate statedly. The following reason is then assigned; "virorum religiosorum ab-"batis et conventus de Cambuskenneth, paupertati compa-"tientes, —— charitatis intuitu, et propter tenuitatem ec-"clesiæ de Alveth." By another extract from the same Chartulary, it appears that Alexander, stiled Dominus de Striveling, Miles, made a grant of one acre of land, to God, the

Virgin Mary, to St. Servanus, and to the church of St. Servanus de Alveth, deſcribing it particularly as lying near the well of St. Servanus, "et inter ipſum fontem et eccleſiam." This charter is dated, A. D. 1276. This well is ſtill within the limits of the miniſter's glebe, and although its conſecrated name has been long forgotten, it continues to ſend forth a copious ſtream of the pureſt and ſweeteſt water. About 20 years after the Reformation, and after Stirling, with a few pariſhes around it, were provided with ſtated paſtors, the Preſbytery of Stirling was erected on the eight day of Auguſt 1581 *, in conſequence of an order from the General Aſſembly, to that effect. The firſt miniſter of this pariſh, was Mr Robert Mainteith, who was afterwards depoſed for incapacity.

Pudet hæc opprobria nobis,
Et dici potuiſſe, et non potuiſſe, refelli.

From this time and downwards to the year 1632, this pariſh appears to have been united with the neighbouring one of Tillicoultry, the miniſter of Alva officiating in both; the livings of each hardly affording a decent ſubſiſtence; the ſtipend of Alva not exceeding 300 merks Scots, or L. 16: 13: 4 ſterling. The fabric of the preſent church was built in the year 1631, by Alexander Bruce, then proprietor of Alva; who, after making a ſmall addition to the ſtipend, procured a diſjunction from the pariſh of Tillicoultry. Although the fabric of the church is ſtill good and ſound, yet it appears never to have been completely finiſhed within; the walls and roof are not plaiſtered, and the ſeats are in a very ruinous condition. The windows are too ſmall and ill-placed. As the ſtructure is ſufficient, it might be repaired at a moderate expence; and, without any enlargement of the area, might be rendered

* Records of the Preſbytery of Stirling.

rendered a very commodious and elegant church. The preſent manſe, was built in the year 1762, upon a very neat and commodious plan. In the year 1765, the preſent Lord Alva, then proprietor of this barony, ſenſible of the ſmallneſs of the living, very generouſly, and without any application from the incumbent, gave an augmentation in victual to the amount of L. 22 ſterling, at the uſual converſion; by which means the ſtipend now conſiſts of L. 34 ſterling in money, including the allowance for communion elements, together with 40 bolls of barley, and 32 bolls of meal. But what eſpecially deſerves to be remembered by the preſent incumbent, to whom this augmention was given, is, that Lord Alva, not only of his own accord reſolved to give it, but actually executed a ſummons againſt himſelf, as ſole heritor of the pariſh, in name of the miniſter without his knowledge, as the firſt ſtep towards perfecting, what he had ſo generouſly reſolved on. The glebe conſiſts of nine acres, a ſmall part of which is meadow, and which, if completely drained, might be very beneficial. Had Virgil himſelf viſited the Ochills, and compoſed his firſt paſtoral on this ſpot, he could not have deſcribed it more graphically than he has done in the following lines;

Et tibi magna ſatis: quamvis lapis omnia nudus,
Limoſoque palus obducat paſcua junco.

Let no future poſſeſſor of this glebe dare to murmur, after what Maro has ſo ſweetly ſung!

School.—The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is 200 merks, or L. 11 : 2 : 2$\frac{2}{3}$ ſterling. This is the maximum appointed by law for the ſalary of a pariſh ſchool. When it is conſidered, that by act of parliament *, the heritors and liferenters of a pariſh, are

* Vide Acts W. and M. Par. 1. Seſſ. 6. Chap. 26.

are allowed to obtain relief for the one half of that ſum from the tenants, it may be juſtly wondered, that ſo very few country pariſhes have availed themſelves of it, and ſtill allow their ſchoolmaſters to be ſo meanly provided. To this good and wiſe inſtitution of parochial ſchools, and to the aſſiduous labours of that moſt uſeful claſs of men, our country ſtands indebted for its celebrity in learning and ſcience.

Poor.—The poor in this pariſh are not numerous. At preſent there are not more than ſix perſons, who receive relief from the public charity. Occaſional ſupply is at times given to others, as their neceſſities demand. They have hitherto been maintained by the ordinary collections, together with the intereſt ariſing from a ſmall fund, and the common dues of the pariſh mort-cloths; without any aſſeſſment upon the heritor, or inhabitants. There are examples, more than one, of perſons, who have declined accepting this charity, chooſing rather to ſuſtain their hardſhips with patience, than to receive it from the public. This ſerves to confirm the remark, that when the funds of public charity are increaſed to any great degree, there is generally leſs delicacy in receiving it.

Minerals.—This pariſh has been diſtinguiſhed by the diſcoveries which have been made, in this part of the Ochills, of various metals, and particularly of ſilver. In the neighbouring pariſhes of Logie on the weſt, and Tillicoultry and Dollar on the eaſt, veins of copper and lead have been, at different periods, wrought to a conſiderable extent; and though veins of theſe metals, and alſo of iron ore, have been found in the hills of Alva, yet no experiments of ſuch conſequence have been made, as to aſcertain their true value. Some time between the years 1710 and 1715, Sir John Erſkine, of whom mention has been already made, by means of ſome miners from

Leadhills

Leadhills, diſcovered a very valuable vein of ſilver, in the glen that ſeparates the Middle-hill from the Wood-hill. It made its firſt appearance in ſmall ſtrings of ſilver ore, which being followed, led to a very large maſs of that precious ore; part of this had the appearance of malleable ſilver, and was found upon trial to be ſo exceedingly rich, as to produce 12 ounces of ſilver from 14 ounces of ore. A ſum not greater than L. 40, or, at the moſt L. 50, had been expended when this valuable diſcovery was made. During the ſpace of thirteen or fourteen weeks, it has been credibly affirmed that ore was produced to about the value of L. 4000 *per* week, and it has been conjectured, that Sir John drew from L. 40,000 to L. 50,000, beſides much ore, which was ſuppoſed to have been purloined by the workmen. When this was exhauſted, the ſilver ore began to appear in ſmaller quantities; and ſymptoms of lead, with other metals, were diſcovered. The conſequence of which was, that all further reſearches were at that time laid aſide. There are ſtill in the poſſeſſion of Lord Alva, Nephew of the late Sir John Erſkine, ſome exceedingly rich pieces of ſilver ore, which had been got at that time, and which evidently ſhew how very valuable that maſs of ore muſt have been *.

Theſe have been examined by many of Lord Alva's friends, who have admired, not merely the richneſs of the ore, but its beauty; the pure *native virgin* ſilver being obſerved to adhere in ſlender ſtrings to the ſpar, in a variety of fanciful and irregular forms.

About

* In the year 1767, Lord Alva, of ſome of the remains of that ore in his poſſeſſion, cauſed a pair of Communion Cups to be made, for the uſe of the Church of Alva; on theſe, the following inſcription is engraved. Sacris, in Eccleſia, S. Servani, apud Alveth, A. D. 1767, ex argento indigena, D. D. C. q.—Jacobus Erskine.

About the year 1759, the late Charles Erſkine, Lord Juſtice Clerk, father of Lord Alva, having a few years before, purchaſed this barony from his nephew, the late Sir Henry Erſkine, revived the working of the ſilver mines in this place. A company conſiſting of ſome gentlemen, kinſmen and friends of the family, was formed, and a moderate capital ſubſcribed. Theſe carried on the work, with conſiderable induſtry; they purſued the courſe of the vein, where the ſilver ore had been found, a very great way beyond the old workings, which had for many years been abandoned. Their ſucceſs, it muſt be regretted, was not in proportion to the vigour of their exertions; for although the appearances in the vein were favourable, and ſmall ſtrings of metal ſometimes diſcovered, theſe however were not followed by any thing of ſufficient importance, to encourage them to continue their reſearches.

A ſhaft or ſump, as the miners term it, was made to the depth of ſeveral fathoms, immediately below the bottom of the waſte, from whence the rich maſs of ore, above mentioned, had been taken, and a drift carried on, in the direction of the ſilver vein, upon that level; but neither did this attempt anſwer the expectation which had been formed of its ſucceſs. To facilitate theſe operations however, it had been reſolved, to drive a level at a conſiderable diſtance, nearer the bottom of the hill; for the purpoſe of draining the water from the works above. In executing this part of their ſcheme, they had not advanced a great way into the ſide of the hill, when a large maſs of ore was diſcovered; at firſt, this was imagined to be ſilver; but upon an accurate trial, made by a gentleman, diſtinguiſhed for his chemical knowledge, it was diſcovered to be cobalt. A very conſiderable quantity of this was brought out, of which a great part was uſed in a manufacture of porcelain, that had been erected much about that

time,

time, at Preſtonpans in Eaſt-Lothian. When the cobalt is deprived of the arſenic with which it is ſtrongly impregnated, and in other reſpects properly prepared, it produces a powder of a beautiful deep blue, and with this, a great variety both of uſeful and ornamental pieces of china and glaſs were coloured; which clearly ſhewed that the cobalt found in the mines of Alva, was in no reſpect inferior in quality to that procured from the mines in Saxony. In conſequence of this diſcovery, the appearances of cobalt being now fully known, very conſiderable quantities of it were diſcovered among the heaps of rubbiſh, that had been taken out of the mines, at the time when they were worked by the late Sir John Erſkine. This had remained undiſturbed, for about fifty years; when Lord Alva cauſed a great part of it to be waſhed, after the manner practiſed by miners; and obtained an additional quantity to that which had been already procured from the level. The work was carried on a great length from the place where the maſs of cobalt had been found; but ſpar and other vein-ſtuff appearing, the further working of the mines in this place was totally abandoned.

During the time that theſe works were carried on, a very accurate ſurvey of all the different veins of metals that had been diſcovered in the hills of this pariſh, was made by the agent for the company, who poſſeſſed a very conſiderable degree of ſkill in the practical part of mining. The ſeveral appearances and ſpecimens of the different ores, which were found in conſequence of the trials which were made in the veins; together with the preciſe direction which theſe take into the hills, with a variety of circumſtances relating to them, which it would be improper to enumerate here, were all accurately taken down by their agent, in a regiſter or journal, and which is in the poſſeſſion of Mr Johnſtone, the preſent proprietor of this barony. It is eſpecially worthy of being remarked, that the per-

ſon

ſon employed to make this ſurvey, and to digeſt the obſervations reſulting from it, was particularly diſtinguiſhed for his integrity; and therefore the accounts of the mines, contained in the regiſter now mentioned, may with ſafety be relied on, as juſt and accurate, and ſtrictly correſponding to appearances, as he had not the ſmalleſt tendency to exaggerate his deſcriptions. Although an extenſive knowledge of this ſubject is altogether diſclaimed, yet there is one obſervation, which preſents itſelf ſo frequently to any, even the moſt careleſs, inquirer, that it may be fairly hazarded: That, were new trials to be made, nearer the ſurface of the veins than thoſe made formerly, there is a probability of their being more ſucceſsful; as, in ſome of thoſe veins, maſſes of rich and beautiful ſpar attract the notice of the haſty traveller, and ſeem to invite him to examine them with ſome degree of attention. This is happily confirmed, by the reſult of thoſe experiments, an account of which has already been given, which were undeniably more ſucceſsful than any of thoſe that ſince that time have been made. It appears from thoſe regiſters of the mines, that there are not fewer than fourteen or fifteen veins diſcovered in the hills of Alva, which, from the trials made, are found to contain ſpecimens of ſilver, lead, copper, iron, and cobalt.

On the ſouth ſide of the water of Devon, immediately oppoſite to the lands of Alva, in the eſtate belonging to Lord Cathcart and Mr Erſkine of Mar, it is well known that the fineſt coal in all this country is produced. It has now been worked during a long period of years, and has always been held in the higheſt eſtimation, on account of its ſuperior quality. The ſame ſeams of coal have been found on the north banks of that river, in the eſtate of Alva, and extend from one extremity of the pariſh to the other. It was worked by the late Sir John Erſkine, about ſixty years ago, and a conſiderable quantity of coal was then brought out. The pits and other

ther veſtiges of his works, are ſtill to be ſeen. And ſo noble a ſpirit of enterpriſe did that gentleman poſſeſs, that he cut a canal, a conſiderable way along the banks of Devon, in order to convey his coal to the banks of the Forth, to be exported from thence to a proper market. The remains of this canal can eaſily be traced. More than twenty years ago, accurate ſurveys, of the different levels of the water of Devon, were taken as high up as the pariſh of Dollar, with a view to facilitate the tranſporting of coal, belonging to the different proprietors on the banks of the river, by means of a canal intended to have been made where it ſhould have been requiſite; as, in many places, the current of the river is ſo ſmooth and gentle, as to render one entire canal altogether unneceſſary. Although this project was laid aſide, yet in ſome future period it may perhaps be reſumed. It is highly probable, that the preſent proprietor of this pariſh, will judge it proper to begin without delay to work the coal upon his eſtate, for this good reaſon, that the demand for that article is daily increaſing; and there is every proſpect that it will continue to increaſe, in conſequence of the prodigious conſumption of Lord Cathcart's coal, by an iron work, lately erected on that Nobleman's eſtate, near the banks of Devon. No part of it is now ſold for the uſe of the country.

In a deſcription of this kind, it would be inexcuſable to omit taking notice of the beautiful plantations of trees, which ſurround the houſe of Alva; which are planted in the hedge rows of the ſeveral incloſures, and on the brow of that eminence, on which the houſe ſtands. On this, there is a ſmall foreſt, conſiſting of many different kinds of trees, ſuch as oaks, elms, aſhes, beeches, larches, and pines of different ſorts. Many of theſe, the oaks in particular, ſeem to be of conſide-

rable age. Some of the aſhes too, are remarkable on account of their ſize; and one oak, juſtly claims the appellation of the "Monarch," of *this* wood, not in reſpect of its age, but on account of the tallneſs and ſtraightneſs of its trunk, and of the regularity with which its boughs are extended on every ſide. It is extremely probable, that this little foreſt had been at firſt planted by the hand of ſome former proprietor; but far beyond the reach of memory. Moſt of the trees, which ſurround the incloſures below the houſe, were planted by the late Sir John Erſkine, and as is ſuppoſed, ſome time before the year 1720. The eaſt and weſt ſides of the hill, immediately above the houſe, were planted by Lord Alva, more than 20 years ago, to which very large additions have been made every year, by Mr Johnſtone, ſince he became proprietor. It is computed, that not leſs than 98 acres of this hill, are planted with trees of various ſorts; and that the policy, as it is called, and the plantations around the houſe, extend to fifty acres. The road from the houſe to the church, which is little leſs than a meaſured mile, has a row of trees on every ſide, which renders it a very pleaſant and delightful walk. It is worthy of obſervation, that the trees on this eſtate, have this remarkable property of being exceedingly clean and pure, in the ſkin or bark; and that few or none of thoſe moſſy excreſcencies, are to be found on the bodies of the trees here, which are uſually ſeen adhering to trees that grow in low and ſwampy grounds; which is an evidence not only of a dry and pure atmoſphere, but alſo of the happy quality of the ſoil for raiſing trees. 'Tis believed, that the ſame obſervation will hold true with regard to the trees that grow on the ſame range of hills, having the ſame expoſure, and very probably, the ſoil nearly of the ſame quality; while at the ſame time, it is but fair to remark, that

few, if any, of the trees, either in the parishes on the east or west, are equal either in age or size, to the trees of this parish.

Few situations afford more ample scope for the display of elegance and taste, in the way of rural ornament, than this place presents. Nature is seen here in some of her grandest, as well as most pleasing forms; and a correct taste, by lopping off some luxuriancies, and bestowing some additional touches, where these are requisite, might contribute greatly to heighten the beauty of the scenery. A rivulet of the purest water, pours along the middle of that glen where the mines were wrought; when obstructed in its course by opposing rocks, it forces its way, and falls in three beautiful cascades; where the ground is soft and flat, it forms a capacious pool; it is shaded on both its banks, with an extensive plantation of thriving timber, and forms a convenient recess for the purpose of bathing. Even Diana herself, with all her attendant nymphs, might here boldly plunge into the cool "transfluent wave," and not dread the unhallowed eye of any savage or licentious intruder.

In the east end of the church, a monument, plain, and without ornament, is erected by Lord Alva, in memory of his father, late Lord Justice Clerk. The following Epitaph is inscribed on a marble plate, which, for classic elegance, and purity of stile, is surpassed perhaps by few modern compositions of that kind. It is hoped, that it may not be disagreeable to the few surviving friends of that respectable and truly amiable man, to recognize a character in which they delighted, thus elegantly and justly described by his son.

Parenti optimo,
Carolo Areskine, Car. Areskine de Alva, equitis, filio,
Qui,
Juventute, doctrina plurimum exculta;
Ætate provectior,
In jure respondendo dicundoque
Feliciter versatus;
Senectute serena placidus,
Summis in Republica muneribus,
Ad LXXXIII, usque annum,
Gnaviter expletis.
Vita honorifica fatur,
In sede tandem avita,
Ossa juxta paterna,
Heic lubens quiescit.
Carolo quoque, fratri multum desiderato,
Familiæ suæ, Patrioque, si fata tulissent,
Decori eximio;
Londini, in ædicula coenobii Lincolnensis,
Sepulto,
H. M. P. C. JACOBUS ERSKINE,
1763.

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

PARISHES OF DUPLIN & ABERDALGY.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GARVIE.

THESE pariſhes, the names of which are ſaid to be Gaelic, were united in the year 1618; ſince which time, Duplin has been conſidered only as a part of the pariſh of Aberdalgy.

River.—Aberdalgy pariſh is waſhed on the ſouth by the Earn, a river remarkable for its numerous beautiful windings, and containing, not only perch, pike, very fine whitings, and a great variety of other ſea and freſh water trout, but alſo in ſeveral parts of its courſe, a conſiderable number of ſalmon. There is a ſalmon fiſhery in this part of the river, but it is of no great value. The ſalmon are caught, partly in nets, and partly in cruives, and are carried from this to Perth; whence they are exported to London, together with the ſalmon caught in the Tay.

For ſome years paſt, in conſequence of a ſuggeſtion of Mr Dempſter of Dunnichen, the Tay and Earn ſalmon have been exported freſh, and preſerved ſo well in that ſtate, by means

means of ice and a quick conveyance, that they have been eſteemed equal, if not ſuperior to any ſalmon in the London market. A ſalmon ſmack has run from Perth to London in 52 hours.

General Appearance of the Pariſh.—The ground by the ſide of the river is ſo nearly upon the ſame level, that it is flooded after heavy rains, and high weſterly winds; but it ſoon riſes conſiderably higher. In moſt places, it gets to its greateſt height at the diſtance of ſomewhat more than a mile from the river. Soon after it begins to fall again, and continues falling gently, and gradually, till it reaches the pariſh of Tibbermuir.

Soil.—The ſoil, in this pariſh, as in others, is various. By the river's ſide, it is ſandy. On the lower grounds at a little diſtance, there are ſeveral fields of a rich and ſharp, and ſeveral of a rich clay, ſoil. On the higher grounds, and on the north ſide of the pariſh, the ſoil which prevails moſt is a ſtrong deep till.

Air, Diſeaſes.—The inhabitants enjoy the benefit of a healthful air, and are ſubject to no peculiar diſeaſes. Little more than twenty years ago, the ague was ſo common and prevalent here, that very few eſcaped it; but it has not once made its appearance during the laſt twelve years.

Minerals.—The pariſh abounds in free-ſtone; but no other mineral has yet been diſcovered. Upon one of the farms, there is a mineral ſpring, the water of which has been lately found very uſeful in curing the muir-ill in cattle; a diſtemper,

per, by which the cattle on that farm formerly ſuffered extremely.

Statiſtical Table.

Extent of the pariſh from Eaſt to Weſt		2¾ Engliſh miles	
from South to North		2½	
Number of Engliſh acres in the pariſh -		4051	0 0
Acres arable within Duplin parks -		440	2 33
Acres planted within Duplin parks -		423	2 5
Acres arable throughout the reſt of the pariſh		2988	2 11
Acres planted throughout the reſt of the pariſh		1062	2 4

Number of Inhabitants	523	— Carpenters -	4
— Males	255	— Smiths	3
— Females -	268	— Weavers -	5
— Under 10 years	133	— Taylors	3
— From 10 to 20	131	— Cottagers in the ſervice	
— From 20 to 40	144	of the farmers -	21
— From 40 to 60	90	— Day labourers	21
— From 60 to 80	21	— Gardeners -	6
— Above 80	4	— Schoolmaſter -	1
— Married couples	71	— Clergyman -	1
— Widowers -	6	— Male ſervants	62
— Widows -	14	— Female ſervants	41
Average of Marriages for 10		— Diſſenters from the eſta-	
years preceding 1792	6	bliſhed church, with	
— Births	14	their children	133
— Deaths	9	— Horſes, about -	140
Number of Farmers	14	— Cows, about -	120
— Shoemakers	4	— Other black cattle, a-	
— Millers	2	bout	300
— Maſons	2	— Sheep	120

This

This Table gives the real ſtate of the pariſh, in the end of the year 1792; and, ſince that time, there has been but little alteration.

Plantations, &c.—The plantations mentioned in the table are exceedingly valuable, and add greatly to the beauty of this part of the country. All ſorts of trees planted in Scotland are to be ſeen in them; and ſeveral ſorts in great numbers, and in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate. To ſay nothing of the more common ſpecies, the number of fine oak, beech, ſpruce fir, and ſweet cheſnut, is very conſiderable. There are alſo a few cedars, two of which are among the largeſt that are to be ſeen in Scotland.

Pennant ſays, that the aſh does not flouriſh here; but he muſt have been led to ſay this, through inadvertency or miſinformation; for there are ſuch fine trees of that ſpecies, not only in the pleaſure ground and plantations of Duplin, but in various parts of the eſtate, that the aſh may be looked upon as the indigenous tree of the country. The mention of this miſtake of Pennant's, naturally leads to the mention of another, though it may be thought, perhaps, to be made a little out of place. Pennant ſays, that fruit will not ripen at Duplin; and yet it is a certain fact, that peaches and nectarines come to great perfection there every year, on the common wall.

The plantations in this pariſh are of different ages, a great many of the trees having been planted in the end of the laſt, and the beginning of this century, and a great many at different times ſince the year 1762. Duplin caſtle, the Earl of Kinnoul's principal ſeat, ſtands on the riſing ground, and is on all ſides ſurrounded with the oldeſt and the fineſt of thoſe trees. The rich and beautifully variegated proſpect which it commands, and the great extent of the adjacent plantations

and

and pleaſure ground, give it a manifeſt and an acknowledged ſuperiority to far the greateſt part of the ſeats of our Scottiſh nobility. The houſe is a very good one. Not the tower only, as Pennant ſays, but all the ſouth part of the houſe, being the full half of it, is evidently part of the old caſtle. The north front and two wings were built by the preſent Earl's great grandfather, in the years 1688, 1689, and 1690. This front has an elegant appearance. But what perhaps principally claims notice, when the houſe is mentioned, is the large and well choſen collection of books in the library, and the great number of family portraits, and other pictures done by the beſt hands, which cover the ſides of the different rooms.

Agriculture.—The whole lands of the pariſh, excluſive of thoſe within Duplin incloſures, are divided into 14 farms. By aboliſhing that very baneful arrangement of them which was commonly termed runrig, by draining, incloſing, liming, and ſummer-fallowing the ground, by doing equal juſtice to every part, and obſerving a proper rotation of crops, theſe farms have, within the laſt thirty years, been greatly improved. Much of the merit of this improvement is juſtly aſcribed to the late Earl of Kinnoul; who, when he came to reſide in Scotland, not only took care ſo to reſtrict his tenants in the leaſes he gave them, as to prevent their continuing ſuch of their old practices as were hurtful to the ſoil, but alſo pointed out to them a better mode of cultivation, and left no method untried, that was proper to induce them to follow it. At firſt, they diſcovered ſo great an averſion to any change in their old ſyſtem, that his Lordſhip at times deſpaired of being able to overcome it; but, when once they were prevailed upon to make trial of the new one, which he wiſhed them to adopt, it was not long before he had the pleaſure to find, not

only that they were perfectly reconciled to it, but that they conſidered themſelves as under great obligations to him, for introducing among them a ſyſtem of farming ſo highly advantageous. In conſequence of this improved ſtate of the farms, the pariſh has now a very different face, from what it had when his Lordſhip came to take up his reſidence here. At that time there were no graſs ſeeds ſown, and no wheat excepting a ſmall quantity ſown by the pariſh miniſter and one of his neighbours; but now, there are ſeveral acres annually ſown with graſs ſeeds, and ſeveral with wheat by almoſt every farmer. Now alſo much good oats is ſeen growing in ſeveral places, where, at that time, there was not paſture ſufficient for a ſingle ſheep. Hence the rent has been nearly doubled; and yet, being deſignedly kept moderate, it is chearfully and punctually paid. The crops raiſed, beſides wheat, clover, and rye-graſs, are oats, barley, peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, and lint. Of the three laſt, the quantity is not great. The rotation of crops which ſeems to be moſt approved, but to which few ſtrictly adhere, is, the 1*ſt* year after a ſummer fallow, wheat; 2*d*, peaſe and beans; 3*d*, barley, with graſs ſeeds; 4*th*, clover, and rye-graſs; 5*th*, oats.

Poor.—The poor at preſent upon the pariſh roll, are 7 in number. The money ariſing from collections at the church, fees of mort-cloth, marriages, &c. is not nearly ſufficient for their maintenance; but happily for them they have a good friend in Lord Kinnoul. His Lordſhip, whether reſiding in the pariſh, or abſent from it, not only continues to give the ſame weekly ſum which his uncle the late Lord gave at church, but is ever ready, as his uncle was, to beſtow whatever additional ſum is thought neceſſary for their comfortable ſubſiſtance.

Eccleſiaſtical

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church was built by the late Earl in 1773, and is one of the beſt ſmall churches in Scotland. There is a vault under it for the Kinnoul family, in which the late Earl and one of his ſiſters lie interred. The manſe, which was built in 1749, is pretty good and in tolerable repair. The ſtipend was augmented laſt year, and is now 32 bolls of meal, 16 bolls of barley, and L. 74 : 18 : 8$\frac{8}{12}$ ſter. including L. 3 : 6 : 8 ſter. for communion elements. The Crown and the Earl of Kinnoul are vice-patrons, the Biſhop of Dunkeld having, before the union of the two pariſhes, preſented to the church of Aberdalgy, which was in his dioceſe, and the proprietor of Duplin having preſented to the church of Duplin, which was in the dioceſe of Dunblane.

School.—The eſtabliſhed ſchool, which is the only one in the pariſh, is well attended; ſeveral children come to it from other pariſhes. The ſchoolmaſter has a houſe, ſchool-houſe and garden, and L. 10 ſter. of a ſtated yearly ſalary. As ſeſſion clerk, his ſalary is L. 1 : 5 ſter. For ſome years paſt, Mr Peddie, the preſent ſchoolmaſter, has been allowed by Lord Kinnoul, L. 3 ſter. in addition to his ſalary, for his greater encouragement. He deſerves all the encouragement that can be given him; few being better qualified to teach Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the firſt principles of mathematics, and none more aſſiduous and diligent in teaching them than he is. It will not be deemed improper to add, that he has acquired without any inſtructor, the rare talent of communicating knowledge to the deaf and dumb, and of teaching them to ſpeak. A boy of this deſcription, not twelve years of age, who never had another teacher, has made a very great proficiency under him. Already he articulates a great many words pretty diſtinctly, and his articulation appears to

be faſt improving. He can give, with eaſe, the names of moſt of thoſe objects of ſight, which he has had an opportunity of examining. He can read, write, and ſolve any queſtion in the common rules of arithmetic, as well as moſt boys of his age, who do not labour under his diſadvantages. He ſeems alſo to be in a fair way to underſtand what he reads.

Preſent and former Proprietors.—The Earl of Kinnoul is proprietor of the whole pariſh. The whole of it has been the property of the Kinnoul family, ſince the year 1625, when it was purchaſed from the Earl of Morton, who poſſeſſed it only two or three years. For more than three centuries at leaſt, before it came into his poſſeſſion, it belonged to the family of Lord Oliphant.

At the ſiege of Stirling caſtle, in 1304, there was in the caſtle, beſides Sir William Oliphant of Aberdalgy, the deputy governor, a Sir William de Dupplin his couſin; but before 1364, the property of the lands both of Duplin and Aberdalgy, was veſted in a Sir Walter Oliphant, who in that year, reſigned it into the hands of David II. and had a charter granted him by that King, by which the lands were conveyed to him and his wife, one of that King's ſiſters, to be held in one entire and free barony.

Antiquities.—In the church-yard of Aberdalgy, and on the ſpot where the old church ſtood, there is a monument of black marble, with this inſcription in Saxon capitals: "Hic "jacet Dominus Willielmus Olifaunt, dominus de Aberdal- "gy, qui obiit anno Mill. ccc. vigeſimo nono. Orate pro "anima ejus." This perhaps was that brave man, the deputy governor of Stirling caſtle; who, when ſummoned in the name of Edward I. to ſurrender it, made that noble reply: "I have never ſworn fealty to Edward, but I have ſworn

"to

"to keep the caſtle, and therefore muſt wait the orders of "my conſtituent;" and who, when the caſtle was beſieged by Edward in perſon, and his whole army, had the courage to defend it for full three months; though before the commencement of the ſiege, all the reſt of the kingdom had been forced to ſubmit to Edward's power. Douglas, in his peerage, ſays, I know not upon what authority, that this was the deputy governor's ſon; and Crawford in his, that he was his grandſon. Both agree, that it was this Sir William Oliphant, who ſubſcribed along with ſeveral other Scottiſh Barons, the famous letter to the Pope, which aſſerts with ſo much ſpirit, the independence of Scotland.

Beſides Duplin caſtle, the family of Oliphant had a houſe cloſe by the church of Aberdalgy, the foundations of which may ſtill be traced. At a place called Monday, where there is a commanding view of all the country around, there are ſome veſtiges of a large building, concerning which tradition has handed down nothing but its name, viz. Kemp or Camp caſtle.

Battle.—This pariſh was the ſcene of that unfortunate battle, fought on the 12th Auguſt 1332, between Edward Balliol, and the Scottiſh army commanded by the Earl of Mar. The ſpot where the battle was fought, has not been aſcertained.

Character of the Inhabitants.—As to the character of the people, it may be ſaid with truth, that they are ſober, peaceable, and induſtrious.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF CARMUNNOCK.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr ADAM FORMAN.

Origin of the Name.

THE pariſh of Carmunnock, affords but ſmall room for ſtatiſtical enquiry. The origin of the name cannot now be accurately aſcertained. The moſt probable account is, that it ſignifies the camp town founded upon the ſlope or declivity of the hill; and the appearance of the village ſeems to anſwer the deſcription.

Antient State.—It is not eaſy to determine, what was the condition of the pariſh of Carmunnock, prior to the year 1569, when there was an application from the preſbytery of Glaſgow, to the General Aſſembly; repreſenting, that the preſbytery of Glaſgow, conſiſted only of ſix kirks; Glaſgow, Govan, Ruther-glen, Leinzae or Kirkintulloch, Campſie, and Monaburgh or Kilſyth. They repreſent farther, that each of the preſbyteries of Paiſley and Hamilton conſiſts of fifteen kirks; and deſire, that Monkland, Kilbryde, and Eagleſham from Hamilton; and Mearns, Eaſtwood, and Cathcart

Cathcart from Paiſley, may be added to Glaſgow. In this application, Carmunnock is not mentioned; but we find, that in the year 1597, Mr James Hamilton, Miniſter of Carmunnock, conſents that his kirk ſhall belong to the preſbytery of Glaſgow, according to the will and ordination of the General Aſſembly.

Situation, &c.—The pariſh of Carmunnock, or Carmannock, as it is written in ancient records, is ſituated in the county of Lanark, preſbytery of Glaſgow, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is bounded by the pariſh of Cambuſlang on the eaſt, by Kilbryde on the ſouth, by Eagleſham and Mearns on the weſt, and by Cathcart and Rutherglen on the north.

The extent of the pariſh from eaſt to weſt, may be about four miles, and it is about three miles in breadth from north to ſouth; but by including two annexations, the one from the pariſh of Cathcart, and the other from the pariſh of Kilbryde; which, by a decreet of the proper court, were united in the year 1725, to the pariſh of Carmunnock, *quoad ſacra tantum*, the extent may be ſix miles in length, and four in breadth.

The greater part of this pariſh is pretty elevated, and commands one of the moſt extenſive proſpects any where to be found. Towards the north and eaſt, the eye is delighted with the moſt diverſified landſcape. The rich and fertile plains of Clyde, from Hamilton to Dumbarton, the wide extended country around, which calls forth the exertions and induſtry of the huſbandman; the city of Glaſgow, and town of Paiſley, with the villages dependant upon them, and which give energy to the ingenuity of ſo many thouſands in the different branches of elegant manufacture, for which theſe cities are juſtly famed, ſtrike the eye of the beholder, and gratify his mind, when he reflects upon the uſeful purpoſe, in which the varied, and exertive genius of the inhabitants is employed.

employed. The river itſelf, from many parts of the grounds, is ſeen in ſixteen different openings, and at a diſtance, veſſels of ſmall burden from Greenock, and Port-Glaſgow, bearing the rich produce of other climes to this happy country. But the eye in taking a more diſtant range, brings into view the lofty hills of Arran, and different parts of Argyleſhire towards the weſt, Benlomond and the country around towards the north, the hills of Pentland within a few miles of Edinburgh on the eaſt, and Tintock towards the ſouth. The proſpect is ſo extenſive, that a part of ſixteen different counties is ſaid to be ſeen.

Soil, &c.—The ſoil in this pariſh is various. A very conſiderable part is of a light quick mould. There are ſeveral farms, part of which conſiſts of a ſtrong deep clay, but which, when properly drained, produces excellent crops. There are other grounds in the pariſh, the ſoil of which is of a light ſhallow clay mixed with ſand. This kind of ſoil is very poor, and is ſeldom able to bear a rotation of crops, without being every year nouriſhed with the moſt rich and kindly manure.

There may be about 1500 acres arable, and about 900 or 1000 acres employed in paſturage. The grounds that lie to the weſt, and eſpecially thoſe towards the north and eaſt, are the moſt fertile; and from their vicinity to Glaſgow, where manure may be procured, are capable of great improvement. Theſe lands produce wheat, barley, peaſe and beans; but oats are the moſt common, and have hitherto proved the ſureſt crop. The other grounds in the pariſh, thoſe eſpecially towards the ſouth, are ſo elevated in point of ſituation, that even in places where conſiderable crops might be raiſed, it would be difficult to preſerve them in any tolerable ſtate of cultivation. Theſe grounds in former times have indeed been

been frequently ploughed, when the farmer was in uſe to turn all his fields into corn. Seldom, however, did the increaſe repay the labour; on which account, both from their ſituation, and the difficulty of acceſs, even though manure could be procured, the greater part of theſe grounds is turned into paſture.

A gentleman in the neighbourhood, Walter Ewing Maclae, Eſq. of Cathkin, who enjoys a conſiderable eſtate in this pariſh, has of late paid much attention to the melioration of his property. He has incloſed at no ſmall expence, the whole of his higher grounds, with what are called Galloway dykes, of five feet and an half high. He has in this manner incloſed upwards of 350 acres, ſubdividing the whole into parks of a ſquare and oblong form, of 30, 40, and 50 acres each, as ſuits the nature and appearance of the grounds. His exertions have already been ſo far crowned with ſucceſs, that for lands which formerly let for 2 ſhillings, or 2s. 6d. per acre, and were thus rated by thoſe who enjoyed the leaſe, he now receives 15 ſhillings per acre. Nor would he give a leaſe of 19 years at this rate. The reaſon, why ſuch a riſe has taken place, is, that theſe grounds not only afford excellent paſturage, according to the uſe to which they are put, but may be conſidered as ſo many temporary folds for ſheep brought from a diſtance, and intended as a ready ſupply for the Glaſgow market.

The ſame gentleman is alſo engaged in ſubdividing, and improving his lower grounds. What he holds in his own poſſeſſion, he is improving at great expence, both by bringing his ſervants and labourers from thoſe parts of the country where agriculture is better underſtood, and alſo by driving manure from the city of Glaſgow, theſe lands being only about 4½ miles diſtant. For ſuch of the grounds as he is about to let, he demands ſo much per acre, 40s. for ſome parts of

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them, and 30s. for other fields which are at present less productive. There is no doubt, that he will gain his purpose, as those who have already lived upon the grounds, to whom he is disposed to let them, are inclined to enter upon a new lease, though at twice the rent which was formerly paid. The proprietor himself means to subdivide and inclose them, but insists upon a rotation of crops, upon such grounds as shall be specified in the contract. It must, however, be a considerable time before his laudable efforts can have their full effect, as several of the old leases are not yet expired; but certainly the community at large must wish, that his labours may be crowned with ample success, and that others by his exertions may be excited to the like spirited industry.

Improvements.—In this parish there is yet great room for many useful improvements. Though the breed of horses is excellently adapted for the plough, and for heavy carriage, yet such is the prevalence of custom, and an attachment to former practices, that the old Scottish plough is for the most part used, and commonly dragged by four of those sturdy animals; while, if Small's plough with its late improvements were introduced, two such horses would be sufficient for the draught, without a driver, or plough-boy, who is at present a necessary attendant. Several of the more enlightened farmers, it is hoped, amidst *other reforms*, will attend to such, as will in the end prove really beneficial to themselves and to their country.

Most of the farms are inclosed, some with stone, and the greater part with thorn-hedges; the latter if properly cared for, are preferable in a high country, upon account of the warmth and shelter they afford during an inclement season. Perhaps it would add both to ornament, and utility, were the greater part of the grounds inclosed with belts

belts of planting of conſiderable breadth, particularly in ſuch ſituations as require protection from the ſtorms, of wind and rain, which are here very frequent.

Rent.—The lands in this pariſh do not rent high in compariſon of the preſent general rate of purchaſe. What is remarkable, the ſon, father, and grandfather, as far as recollection goes back, have lived upon the ſame grounds, and conſider themſelves as they expreſs it, "naturalized to the ſoil." They are ſtill ſubjected to many burdens, or ſervices, which the proprietor of the land requires, ſuch as driving coals, working at hay, and other pieces of labour, all which ought to be aboliſhed, becauſe they check the ſpirit of improvement, and encroach upon thoſe precious hours which the huſbandman ſhould employ in reaping the fruits of his own patient induſtry.

The lands upon an average, in this pariſh, may rate at 15s. per acre. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 1650 : 10 Scots; the real rent may be between L. 1600 and L. 2000 ſterling, if we include feu-duty and ſuperiorities.

Horſes, &c.—The number of horſes uſed for draught and the farm, are about 70, but by including the annexations to the pariſh, about 120. The number of milk cows, about 215, moſt of which are reared in the pariſh. The cows are of a moderate ſize, neither ſo large as the Engliſh, nor ſo ſmall as the Highland cow. During the ſummer months they give 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16, Scotch pints of milk per day.

The horſes are very heavy and large. They are of the large Clydeſdale breed, and are every where common in this part of the country, being either reared by the care of the farmer himſelf, or purchaſed at the Rutherglen market. Moſt of the horſes uſed in this pariſh are black, and mea-

ſure from 14 to 16 hands high. They are uncommonly well matched, and may rate from L. 24 to L. 45 per head.

Management of Farms.—The whole of the farmers here, and eſpecially thoſe whoſe farms lie in the more elevated parts of the pariſh, incline to plough little, but to let their grounds lie in paſturage for 4, 5, and even 6 years, before they lay them down a ſecond time in corn. Thus, what has been in crop for the three preceeding years, muſt be in paſture for the three or four years following; while thoſe proportions of the farm that have been in paſture the appointed time, are again ploughed up, and appropriated for corn, though ſufficient care is not had to crop in due rotation. To this mode of œconomy, the farmers are in ſome meaſure obliged to adhere, becauſe of the dearth and ſcarcity of proper manure. Lime is at hand in the neighbourhood, and ſome avail themſelves of it; but from experience it has been found, that lime alone, will not anſwer a ſoil and mould ſo light and quick, without it receives at certain intervals, a more generous and unctuous manure. Dunghills conſiſting of a mixture of earth and lime, are the kind of manure which is moſt in uſe.

The greater part of the farmers and people in the neighbourhood, ſend the produce of the dairy to Glaſgow, where at times they find a ready market. The cheeſe is of an excellent quality, being no wiſe inferior to that mild kind, which in many parts of Scotland is known by the name of Dunlop. A farmer who pays between L. 70 and L. 80 of annual rent, and who converts the greater part of his milk into this neceſſary article, will ſend 130 ſtone to the market, at 5s. 6d. or 6s. per ſtone; a very conſiderable portion of his rent.

The

The farmers here follow the Iriſh method, and churn the whole of the milk. They are of opinion, that the butter is not ſo apt to turn rancid, as when the cream, after having been long gathered, is only churned. And from various experiments in different parts of the country, there ſeems to be ſome truth in the aſſertion.

The milk of each cow upon an average, will produce four pounds of butter per week, from the beginning of May, till the middle month of October, which the farmer ſells at 1s. and never below 10d. per pound. The farmer who has 12 milk cows, will therefore, during the 6 ſummer and harveſt months, when the graſs is moſt luxuriant, make L. 50 ſterling of his butter, and above L. 20 of his butter milk, which is readily ſold in Glaſgow, and its neighbourhood, at ½ and never leſs than a halfpenny the Scotch pint, or two Engliſh quarts.

Though the farmers have a ready market in Glaſgow at all ſeaſons for ſuch neceſſary articles, as milk and butter, yet they are not at due pains to keep winter cows in ſuch order, as to ſecure ſuch a quantity of milk, as it would be an object to bring to market. Feeding with turnip is ſeldom practiſed, though ſuch of the farmers as have attempted this, have found a very good return. It is however hoped, that a crop ſo beneficial in ſituations where the milk can be conſumed, or the cattle fattened for the market, will even here be brought into more general practice.

Quarries, &c.——In many parts of the pariſh, there is coal and lime-ſtone, neither of which has been wrought to any extent. There is alſo iron-ſtone, which was once contracted for by the proprietors of the Clyde iron-works, but owing to ſome failure in the contract, the agreement became null;

null; ſince which period, the ſtone, though ſaid to be of an excellent quality, has been neglected.

There are alſo extenſive quarries of excellent free-ſtone, ſome of a ſoft, and others of a very firm texture. What is remarkable, in the whole eſtate of Cathkin, which is nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the pariſh, there is no free-ſtone to be found, but all below the ſurface is ſolid whin of the moſt durable kind, except one or two inconſiderable quarries of rotten rock, uſeful only on the highways. In this diſtrict there are alſo maſſy pillars of the ſtone called baſaltes; a deſcription of which has more than once been given to the public.

Water, &c.—In every part of the pariſh, and particularly in the higher grounds, there are many ſprings of the moſt excellent water, thoſe eſpecially which iſſue from the crevices of the ſolid rock. The quality of the water is ſo good, that ſeveral gentlemen from the univerſity and neighbourhood of Glaſgow, well known for their reſpectability, and high attainment in the different departments of ſcience, were at the pains to make an accurate ſurvey of all the different ſprings, to try whether a quantity ſufficient for the ſupply of the city of Glaſgow could be procured. It was however found, upon actually ſurvey, that if all the ſprings upon the brow of the hill were collected, with the view to be introduced into the city, they could only afford 70 Scots pints in the minute, which was $\frac{1}{3}$ leſs than the quantity required.

Mineral Spring, Rivers, Roads.—There is alſo a mineral ſpring, ſaid to be of conſiderable virtue in the cure of various diſeaſes, which many people in the neighbourhood uſed formerly to attend: But for many years, the ſpring has been deſerted, ſea-bathing quarters being at preſent the more faſhionable reſort.

There

There are few rivers of any note in the pariſh, except the Cart which runs along its weſtern boundary with great rapidity. Its banks in moſt parts are covered with wood, which, together with its meandrings, and the rapidity of its ſtream, renders it highly pictureſque and romantic. It has many elegible ſituations for cotton-mills, and other works of utility, which require a great weight, and quantity of water. And it is ſurprizing, that, in a neighbourhood, where ſpirit, and induſtry have ſo long been exerted, ſuch ſituations, intended by nature to call forth the ingenuity of man, ſhould not have been long ago converted into many valuable purpoſes. The only cotton-mill erected in this quarter, upon the Mearns ſide of the river, belongs to a company in Mancheſter.

The great road, leading from Glaſgow to England by Kilbryde, Muirkirk, Dumfries, Carliſle, &c. paſſes through the eaſtern part of this pariſh. There is another road that joins with the former, near to Kilbryde, intended as a thorough fare to Paiſley, and the neighbourhood, which paſſes through the annexed part of the pariſh; and there is a third already contracted for, which joins the Paiſley road towards the ſouth-weſt, and is to paſs through the village of Carmunnock, to lead to Glaſgow.

Population.—The ſtate of population, as far as can be traced back by ſeſſional record, appears for the laſt 150 years, to have been nearly the ſame. Before the year 1640, a regiſtration of marriages and births began to be kept; but ſeveral parts of the regiſter, from decay, and other accidental cauſes, cannot now be read. What was the condition of the pariſh 100 years ago, with reſpect to population, may in ſome meaſure, be collected from the following ſtatement.

Marriages.

	Marriages.	Births.		Marriages.	Births.	Burials.
In 1688	6	14	In 1788	8	22	13
1689	3	12	1789	10	22	11
1690	5	19	1790	5	15	12
1691	11	18	1791	4	20	14
1692	8	14	1792	11	18	11
1693	9	15	1793	10	14	9
In 6 years	42	92		48	111	70
Av. for 1 year	7	15		8	18	11

The number of families, including individuals who have separate dwelling houses, amounts to 133. There are 260 males, and 310 females; so that the number of souls in the parish, is 570. Of these, there are 115 children under 10 years of age.

Present population,	570
Do. in 1755,	471
Increase,	99

In the parish, there are 15 weavers, 8 Masons, who at the same time are employed as wrights; these occupations being in this place considered as connected. There are 6 shoemakers, 2 taylors, 10 day-labourers, 3 millers, 1 carrier, 1 cooper, 3 gardiners, 1 smith, 36 men-servants, 42 women-servants.

Price of Labour, and Provisions.—Of late years, the price of labour is very high. The wages of a man-servant, are seldom below L. 10 sterling yearly. The wages of a woman-servant, are seldom less than L. 4 sterling, and frequently L. 4: 10. The wages of a labourer in hay-time, and harvest, are commonly 1s 6d, and frequently, 2 shillings. A day-labourer

bourer in winter, commonly earns per day, 1 ſhilling, and 1s 6d in ſummer. A taylor uniformly receives 1 ſhilling, and a maſon 1s 8d, and frequently, eſpecially in ſummer, 2 ſhillings.

The price of proviſions has of late alſo riſen very high. Meal is in general, about 1s 1d per peck; cheeſe, 4d½ per lib.; butter, 10d, and often 1 ſhilling per lib.; hens, 1s 8d to 2 ſhillings, or 3s 4d to 4 ſhillings the pair; eggs, 6d, 8d, and ſometimes, 10d per dozen. The two laſt articles are there frequently higher than in the city of Glaſgow; becauſe the ſeller, or retailer, will rather chooſe to carry ſuch articles to market, and ſell them at a reduced price, than accept of a higher price at home; beef and mutton, are commonly about 6d or 7d, per lib. being the ſame as in Glaſgow, beſides the additional expence of carriage.

Heritors.—There are only two conſiderable heritors in this pariſh, all the reſt, in number 14, including feuars, moſt of whom, at different times, have purchaſed a piece of ground from the family of Caſtlemilk, being under L. 150 ſterling of annual rent.

Sir John Stuart of Caſtlemilk, is patron of this pariſh. The church was rebuilt in the year 1767. It is a ſmall edifice, built of fine and free-ſtone, and is very commodiouſly fitted up for the pariſh, who are in general conſtant in their attendance upon divine worſhip.

The manſe and offices are alſo in excellent repair, and were equal attention paid to the melioration of the benefice, the charge would be both eaſy and comfortable. But, although there are two annexations, (*quoad ſacra*), which pay temporalia to the extent of near 70 bolls of meal, beſides vicarage to other pariſhes, the ſtipend of Carmunnock, with all the additional labour occaſioned by this circumſtance, for which nothing is

received, amounts to little more than 5 chalders of meal, and 11 bolls of bear, or rough barley, with L. 9:5:0:$\frac{1}{4}$ of vicarage, and L. 2:0:2$\frac{1}{2}$, for communion elements; though, owing to the vaſt concourſe of people from Glaſgow, and the neighbouring pariſhes, the expence incurred when the Sacrament is diſpenſed, amounts to four times the ſum *.

The glebe, including the ſite of manſe, offices, and what is appropriated for garden, meaſures about 5 acres.

Succeſſion of Miniſters in Carmunnock.

Mr Andrew Hamilton, vicar 1586
Mr James Hamilton, reader and vicar 1586
Mr Archibald Glen, from Rutherglen, admitted 27th April - - - 1603
Mr Robert Glen, admitted 23d Auguſt 1614
Mr James Mowbrae, admitted 27th November 1622, removed by the Archbiſhop, - - - 1633
Mr James Hutcheſon, from Houſtoun, admitted 7th December 1633, depoſed - - 1639
Mr Matthew M'Kaill, admitted 17th May 1640, went to Bothwell, - - - 1649
Mr Andrew Myrton, (Morton) admitted 8th May 1650, turned out at the Reſtoration, re-inſtated at the Revolution, died July - - - 1691
Mr Robert Boyd, during the depoſition of Myrton, 18th January - - - 1665
Mr Andrew Tait, ——— 22d March 1691
Mr John Kerr, ordained 3d May 1744, died 24th April 1775
Mr Joſeph Hodgſon, ordained 30th May 1776, died 6th December - - - - 1785

Mr

* There has been no augmentation of ſtipend for near 150 years.

Mr James French, ordained 21ſt September 1786, tranſlated to Kilbryde, 21ſt April - - 1791
Mr Adam Forman, ordained 26th January - 1792

Poor.—Every part of the pariſh being remarkably healthy, the poor are not numerous. Such however, as are upon the roll, are well cared for; and there is no remembrance when an individual, either man or woman, was permitted to beg. The pariſh have a comfortable ſupply for all the purpoſes of indigence, which ariſes from the intereſt of a ſtock of upwards of L. 400 ſterling. This fund has been raiſed by donations at different times from the family of Caſtlemilk, and principally, by the weekly collections, which have always been conſiderable, owing to the uniform attention which this family has ever paid to the pariſh in the choice of their paſtors. The pariſh has always been kept together, ſo that there are very few diſſenters; notwithſtanding the rage for mock-liberty. There are 8 at an average upon the roll. There are only 16 diſſenters of all denominations; and while the people have been ſatisfied, the Patron, by prudent addreſs, has ever pleaſed himſelf, and got the man of his choice.

School.—There is only one ſchool in the pariſh. The ſchoolmaſter has a teaching room, and dwelling houſe, with 100 merks of ſalary. The number of ſcholars, is uſually between 40 and 50. The wages or fees are ſo very low, that the whole living, including the office of Seſſion Clerk, and Precentor, will ſcarcely amount to L. 25 per annum.

Antiquities.—The whole of this pariſh has been in former times the ſcene of active exploits, eſpecially the grounds which lie towards the ſouth-eaſt. Various tumuli yet remain; and in thoſe which have been opened, urns, formed of clay, and

rudely carved, were found; in which the aſhes of the dead ſeem to have been depoſited. Their contents within conſiſted chiefly of a dry unctuous earth, mixed with human bones; and a ſort of reedy ſubſtance, which, perhaps it is impoſſible for us now to explain. We can form no credible conjecture about the time when theſe urns were firſt depoſited in the earth; and few things have been found, ſo as to aſcertain, whether they are Roman, or Celtic; but it is moſt probable, that they are the latter; and that the tumuli in which they are placed, have been raiſed in the time of the druids, before the chriſtian æra. Commonly in the midſt of the mound, ſquare ſtones are placed, which form a kind of cheſt, or ſtone-coffin, in which the bones of the warrior, or of ſome perſon of ſuperior rank and authority, have been conſigned to the earth. It is remarkable, that all theſe cheſts are formed of fine free-ſtone, which muſt have been brought from a diſtance, as there is nothing of the kind to be found in this part of the pariſh.

In the eſtate of Caſtlemilk, are found the remains of a Roman cauſeway, or military road; and in an adjoining field, ſeveral pieces of ancient armour, with camp utenſils, were lately dug up. The helmet and neckpiece are of an uncommon ſize, and though they are much corroded, and muſt have lain long in the earth, they ſtill weigh near 18 lib. Avoirdupois.

In the houſe of Caſtlemilk, which is noted for its fine ſituation, the unfortunate Mary is ſaid to have lodged the night before the battle of Langſide. Many different ſpots are pointed out in the neighbourhood, where, the following day, ſhe viewed the diſcomfiture of her army, which was the ruin of all her fortunes. The moſt probable place, is upon the brow of the eminence above Caſtlemilk, where a ſpring iſſues from the rock, and moiſtens the root of a thorn-tree,

now grown venerable with age, under which ſhe ſat; and which is preſerved as a laſting memorial of that melancholy diſaſter.

Diſeaſes.—Many of the people from the healthful ſituation of the pariſh, attain to a good old age. Some carry on the labours of the field, eſpecially in time of harveſt, at the age of 85. Fevers, are in general the diſeaſe which proves moſt fatal to old people. There cannot be finer, nor more healthy children, than in this pariſh; but from inattention, they often ſuffer from colds, which when neglected, bring on other diſeaſes. On which account, many children ſuffer by quinſeys, and eſpecially from a diſeaſe which in Scotland, goes by the name of the croup. This diſeaſe for the moſt part, proves fatal; if the immediate aſſiſtance of a phyſician be not procured.

The ſmall pox returns very often, and the diſtemper is never alleviated, as the people from a ſort of blind fatality, will not hear of inoculation, though attempts have often been made to remove their ſcruples on this ſubject; but every ſuch effort has hitherto proved unſucceſsful. It is a circumſtance however, worthy of being related, that in the whole diſtrict of Cathkin, where there have always been 80 individuals; there has not been an inſtance of a death by the ſmall pox, for theſe laſt 24 years; though the diſeaſe has, in that period, at leaſt appeared ſix times, and uniformly viſited every family.

Manners, &c.—The whole of this pariſh is connected by inter-marriages; and this, for many ages paſt, as appears from the public regiſter, which has uniformly been kept. From accurate enquiry, it has been found, that there are not above 15 perſons, and theſe chiefly ſervants, who have no fixed

fixed reſidence, who cannot claim alliance with the whole pariſh; ſo that when an individual connects himſelf by marriage, he may conſider himſelf as having gained above 500 relations at once, by ſuch affinity. Whether he lives happier on this account, or whether, from this extenſive relationſhip, fraternal kindneſs is more ſtrongly called forth, we chooſe at preſent to leave undetermined. Certain it is, if people are ſo inclined, no ſituation can be more favourable for giving force to ſuch kind exertion. It is the more remarkable, that in the vicinity of a large and populous city, this pariſh ſhould remain, like the Hebrews of old, a diſtinct people, and preclude, as it were, the whole world from their alliance.

It is but juſt to ſay, that the greater part of this pariſh, are decent in their morals; ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious; and that there is no inſtance of any perſon having ſuffered any capital puniſhment. Perhaps it would be ſaying too much, to affirm, that they are in any reſpects, better than their neighbours; but one thing is certain, that for near three years, in which their preſent paſtor has lived among them, he has never ſeen an individual overtaken by intemperance. They are alſo in general, uniform in their attendance upon divine worſhip; and what few paſtors can ſay, there is ſcarcely a family in the pariſh, however unfaſhionable the practice is, who do not aſſemble, and conſider it as their duty both evening, and morning, to bow the knee in acknowledgement to the great Creator. But while we wiſh not to withhold juſt praiſe, we muſt alſo mention a cuſtom which ſtill prevails, and which certainly ought to be aboliſhed. It is uſual in this pariſh, as in many other parts of Scotland, when a death has taken place, to invite on ſuch occaſions, the greater part of the country around; and though called to attend at an early hour in the forenoon, yet it is generally towards evening, before they think of carrying forth the

corpſe

corpſe to the church-yard for interment. While, on theſe occaſions, the good folks are aſſembled, though they never run into exceſs, yet no ſmall expence is incurred by the family; who often vie with thoſe around them, in giving, as they call it, an honourable burial to their deceaſed friend. Such a cuſtom is attended with many evils, and frequently involves in debt, or reduces to poverty, many families otherwiſe frugal and induſtrious, by this piece of uſeleſs parade, and ill judged expence.

We are however happy to add, that notwithſtanding the preſent deſire after innovation, and a love of change, the contagion has not hitherto ſpread among the people in this pariſh. Means have indeed been employed to corrupt them, and to draw the unwary into the peſtilent vortex, but by watchful attention, the malignant efforts of deſigning men have hitherto been rendered ineffectual. There are indeed ſome, who have got the hackneyed phraſes of the day, "Liberty," "Reform," &c. but there are none who have openly pretended to countenance meaſures, and practices, which by every good Chriſtian, and every loyal ſubject, will ever be abhorred. Happy in our monarch, in our conſtitution, in our religion, and in our laws, our deſire and earneſt prayer is, That our ſovereign, and his auguſt family may long be preſerved by the good providence of God, and continue to ſway the ſceptre of equity and peace over a happy people; and that the ineſtimable conſtitution they maintain, and the invaluable rights, civil and ſacred, which we enjoy, may remain until that hour ſhall come, that ſhall diſſolve the univerſe.

Fortunati! ſemper, ſua ſi bona norint.

NUMBER

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF CARSTAIRS.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FINLAYSON.

Situation, Name.

THE parish of Carstairs is situated in the county of Lanark, synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and presbytery of Lanark; at the distance of 27 miles west from Edinburgh, and 25 miles east from Glasgow.

It is supposed that the parish derives its name from the form of the ground, which, on the north side of the village, arises gradually in several long ridges like steps or stairs, and running parallel to one another; some of these along the Lanark road seem to have been artificially formed into earthen mounds similar to bastions in fortification.

Others with more probability, think that the name is taken from an old castle which stood at the east end of the village, and had been either a repository of stores or provision for the inhabitants, at the time that the Romans remained in their encampment here, or a place of strength to secure them from the depredations of their enemies at a later period. Hence Carstairs may be derived from *carr*, which signifies town or city,

city, and *yſtor*, proviſion, the town or caſtle of proviſion.

Extent, &c.—The length of the pariſh from S. to N. is ſix miles, and it is three in breadth from E. to W. It is ſurrounded by the pariſhes of Lanark, Pettinain, Carnwath, and Carluke. The riſing ground, already mentioned, divides it into moor and dale lands, differing conſiderably in ſoil and climate. The upper or moor land part is a mixture of clay and black earth, the dale or low land is a ſharp ſandy ſoil. Both diviſions are of a good quality, and capable of producing excellent crops, were farming more ſtudied, and the land properly cleaned and cultivated. The great obſtruction to improvement is the abſurd cuſtom of uſing turf for fuel, which is altogether unneceſſary here, as there is great abundance of good coal to be had at a moderate diſtance. Some of the tenants begin to open their eyes, and to be ſenſible that the precious time conſumed in digging, winning, and leading home peats, would be much better employed in improving the fields. There is every reaſon to think, that agriculture will ſoon be brought to a high ſtate of perfection, as there is no pariſh in Scotland where the farmer has greater encouragement or more local advantages, the leaſes in general being granted for the ſpace of fifty ſeven years, at a reaſonable rate, and a ready market at hand for every commodity.

Patron, Church, &c.—Mr Fullerton of Carſtairs is patron, and principal heritor of the pariſh. There are five other heritors, two of whom beſides the patron reſide. The valued rent is L. 2150 Scots; what the real rent is, the preſent incumbent has not had acceſs to know, as he only became miniſter of this pariſh on the 14th of Auguſt 1794. He

has been told, that the rental is conſiderably above L. 2000 ſter. and that the ſtipend is about L. 50 in money, and three chalders of victual.

A new and elegant church has been built this ſeaſon, 51 feet by 32 within walls, with an ayſle and gallery, the ſide wall 20 feet in height, and the ſteeple 53; and it is all to be finiſhed in a proper ſtyle.

Poor.—The proviſion for the poor conſiſts of L. 230 ſter. of capital ſtock; the intereſt of the principal ſum, with the yearly collections of the church, which, at an average, is L. 16: 9 ſter. are ſufficient funds for the purpoſe.

Population Table.

N°. of families	187	*Profeſſions.*	
Below 10	217	Clergyman	1
From 10 to 20	305	Schoolmaſters	3
—— 20 to 50	273	Gardeners	6
—— 50 to 70	96	Wrights	12
Above 70	33	Smiths	6
Total	924	Taylors	10
Males	422	Weavers	23
Females	502	Shoemakers	14
N°. of Farms	87	Coopers	3
Above L. 50 of rent, (leſs than L. 100)	6	Slaters	3
— Above L. 100	4	Hoſiers	2
— Above L. 200	1	Licenſed publicans	4
N°. of horſes	211	Shopkeepers	4
—— cows	396	Male ſervants	68
—— ſheep	790	Female ſervants	73
—— ploughs	40	Day labourers	34

Births.

	Births.	Burials.	Marriages.	Collections.
In 1784	22	12	8	£. 16 9
1785	26	11	7	16 11
1786	18	10	10	16 15
1787	24	18	8	14 19
1788	20	15	7	14 14
1789	29	9	8	16 0
1790	26	20	11	19 0
1791	21	16	6	16 4
1792	26	14	10	18 0
1793	19	11	12	16 0
	231	136	87	£. 164 12

A correct pariſh regiſter has been kept for many years, and the ſeſſion records extend as far back as the year 1672, in which there is nothing intereſting or curious, excepting ſome ſevere inſtances of church diſcipline, eſpecially during the miniſtry of Mr John M'Laren, who was afterwards ſo well known and ſo much eſteemed at Edinburgh. This famous man was tranſlated from Kippen in Perthſhire, to the pariſh of Carſtairs, in 1699, and for twelve years had ruled the people with a rod of iron; ſince his time the authority of the kirk ſeſſion has been on the decline.

Gardening.—This branch of improvement is carried on with great ſpirit, and to as high a pitch of perfection as the nature of the climate will admit. In the gardens of Carſtairs houſe which are extenſive, not only the fruits that are common, but grapes, pine apples, melons, and every thing which the country can produce in that way, are raiſed in great abundance. The tea, coffee, and other foreign plants have been tried, and thrive beyond expectation. The plantations around

the houſe, which is beautifully ſituated on the banks of the river Clyde, occupy 500 acres of rich land, and have been laid out with great taſte.

Antiquities.—The only Roman camp in this part of the country had been on the ſouth ſide of this pariſh, on a riſing ground near the Clyde. The camp itſelf is an exact ſquare of ſix acres, and notwithſtanding the attempts of the plough and ſpade to deſtroy the works of that great people, the prætorium is ſtill viſible, and the walls of circumvallation pretty entire. The cauſeway leading to the camp and from it, is in a direct line, and can be traced ſeveral miles. Pots and diſhes of different ſizes, and inſtruments of war and ſacrifice, have been lately diſcovered. Coins of various kinds and of different value have been digged up, bearing the inſcription of M. Aurelius, M. Antoninus, &c. Some of theſe coins have been ſent by Mr Fullerton, to the Antiquarian Society, and to the Univerſity of Glaſgow.

Character.—As the writer of this account has reſided in this pariſh only for a very ſhort time, he is by no means qualified to draw the character of the people. He can ſay with truth, that they are regular in attending divine worſhip; and is told, that they all adhere to the church of Scotland, a few perſons in the extremity of the pariſh excepted, who find it convenient to attend a burgher meeting at Davie's Dykes.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF SNIZORT.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr MALCOM M'LEOD.

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish is situated in the Island of Sky, and county of Inverness; It belongs to the presbytery of Sky, and synod of Glenelg.

The extent of this parish is considerable, being between 11 and 12 computed miles from south to north, and in some parts, no less than six from east to west; but the form of it is irregular; the west part being intersected by an arm of the sea, called Loch Snizort. This loch stretches at least four miles inland, in a direction nearly south-east; it is narrow and shallow, and forms bays, and curves, as it goes along.

The parish of Snizort, is bounded by that of Portree on the south; by that of Bracadale on the south-west; by that of Diuriniſh on the west; by that of Kilmuir on the north; and by the channel between Trotorniſh and the Island of Rasay, (a part of the parish of Portree), on the east.

Soil, &c.—The general appearance of this district is rather hilly and mountainous; the surface is unequal, and forms several

several valleys, or, as we call them, glens; yet there are some fields pretty extensive, level and arable. The land as well as the soil is various. The land for the most part is thin and dry, with some hanging and spouty ground; and the soil poor, light, and gravelly; and yields no produce, unless it is laid over with a thick coat of manure. In the north part, and in a few spots in the west, the land is deeper, and the soil more fertile; and in the east side of the parish, the land is in general deep, and clay. The quantity of arable ground has never been ascertained; but by far the greater part of this district consists of uncultivated lands, overgrown with heath and heather; of moor and moss; of hills and mountains, a few of which, are green and dry to the top; the greater number however, are wet and heathy. There is a ridge of very high mountains, steep and rocky on that side facing the east, running from south to north, and separating the east part of this district of the barony of Trotornish from the west.

The principal crops in the parish, are oats and potatoes. When the seasons are favourable, such a quantity of each, as is necessary for the maintenance of its inhabitants, is raised within the bounds of the parish; but when unfavourable, which more frequently happens to be the case, there is a general demand for imported meal. The seed time is from about the 20th of March, to near the middle of May. The harvest seldom begins before the middle of September, and often not till October; and the crop is rarely got totally into the barn-yards, before the beginning of November, and frequently much later; the late harvests are generally bad, and always precarious in this country; from the lateness as well as from the uncertainty of the seasons, this district, and indeed most of the island, seems calculated by nature, more for grazing and green pasture, than for raising corn.

The

The middle part of this pariſh, is let to principal tackſmen; and both the ends are poſſeſſed by a ſet of ſmall tenantry. The tackſmen till the ground with a home-made plough, drawn by four horſes; theſe ploughs, beſides the ploughman and driver, always require the attendance of one, and frequently two men to lay over and dreſs the ground properly. About two years ago, Mr M'Donald of Lindle introduced Small's ploughs from the ſouth country; their utility in the great ſaving of labour in men and horſes being ſoon obſerved, they were readily adopted by the principal farmers, not only of this diſtrict, but alſo of the neighbouring ones; ſome of the ſmalleſt tenants too uſe the common plough, for their weak ground, in the latter end of ſpring; yet the chief inſtrument they uſe in cultivating the ground, is the crooked ſpade.

Population, &c.—Although there have formerly been ſome emigrations from this, as well as from the adjacent pariſhes; and although that diſtrict of it, that is ſituated to the weſt of the water of Snizort, and Loch Snizort, which was formerly let to ſmall tenants, is now in the hands of its different proprietors; yet the population ſeems rather on the increaſe: This I think, muſt be attributed chiefly to the introduction of inoculation, which of late years, is practiſed with great ſucceſs. When that malignant diſeaſe, in times paſt, viſited this country, which it then did not very frequently, its depredations were viſibly felt, in ſweeping away almoſt whole families, leaving not above one, two, or ſometimes three together in a houſe; but ſince inoculation, to which the lower claſs of people have for ſome time been reconciled, became general, it ſeldom proves mortal, and has really been ſo in very few inſtances. The number of ſouls at preſent in the pariſh, is about 894 males, and 914 females; making 1808

ſouls in all. Population in 1755 was 1627. The increaſe therefore, is 181. The ſeſſion funds of this pariſh are ſo poor, (being only the Sundays collections, which are exceedingly ſmall, and a few trifling articles beſides), that they do not admit of having a ſeſſion clerk, conſequently no regiſter is kept of either births, marriages, or deaths; ſo that no certain concluſion can be formed upon theſe articles. The funds of the pariſh are diſtributed yearly, or once in the two years, among its poor, who depend for their mantainance chiefly on the generoſity of the benevolent tenant.

The number of black cattle, horſes, and ſheep in the pariſh, is not eaſily aſcertained; from the beſt information and ſtricteſt enquiry, it is concluded there are no fewer than 2537 cows, including all at and above a year old. A certain number of theſe, the different farmers and tenants drive to Portree, where two public fairs are held in the year, the firſt always on the laſt Wedneſday of May, and the ſecond on the ſame day of July following; and there diſpoſe of them to the beſt advantage. From the money got for their cattle (which is the chief, and I may ſay the only export of the place), they pay their rents to the different landlords, and furniſh the requiſites for themſelves and families. There are no fewer than 597 horſes, all of which are reared and bred for private uſe. It is believed the number of ſheep are nearly about 1952, chiefly of the ſmall highland breed; the wool of theſe ſheep, ſome of which is of a pretty fine texture, the different families get manufactured into cloaths, ſtuffs, and blanketing of various ſorts for their private uſe. A few goats are kept by the principal farmers.

Red foxes, notwithſtanding, a handſome premium is given for every one that is killed, are ſtill numerous and very deſtructive to ſheep and lambs.

The

The eagle, kite, hawk, and black raven, are to be ſeen here, the moorfowl, partridge, and ſuch other birds as are natives of the weſt country, (the black cock and his mate excepted) inhabit this diſtrict, and a few tarmagans are to be met with on the ſummits of the higheſt hills. The migratory birds are the cuckow and ſwallow; the wood-cock arrives in the winter, and takes his leave in ſpring. The ſea-gulls, cormorants, ſearts, and other aquatic fowls, frequent the coaſt: The otter and ſeal, alſo viſit the ſhores.

Manufactures, &c.——Public manufactures have not yet found their way into this pariſh. The regular tradeſmen are weavers, taylors, millers, blackſmiths, houſe and boat carpenters. The generality of the inhabitants are their own maſons and ſhoemakers.

There are three mills in this diſtrict, two upon that part of the property belonging to Lord M'Donald, and the third upon M'Leod of Raſay's property.

Rivers, Antiquities, Natural Curioſities, &c.—There are ſeven large and rapid waters, in the greater part of which, ſome ſalmon are caught from May till Auguſt. The chief of theſe, is the water or river of Snizort, which takes its riſe in the pariſh of Bracadale, and running in a direction nearly north weſt, diſcharges itſelf in the ſea, at the end of the loch of that name. At about a quarter of a mile's diſtance from the ſhore, this water forms an iſland of nearly an acre and a half, formerly the habitation of monks and prieſts, but now the burying place of many families, in this as well as the adjacent diſtricts. In this ſmall iſland are the ruins of an old large cathedral, which in all probability has once

been the metropolitan church of the whole iſland of Sky.

Several veſtiges of druidical temples are to be met with, and ſome of them pretty entire. There are alſo duins, all of a circular form, and built without either lime or mortar. Theſe duins or towers are thought to be Daniſh, and were uſed as garriſons, or rather watch towers, or perhaps both; what makes the latter probable, is, that from each of theſe towers, another is ſeen from either hand; and when any one was alarmed at the approach of a hoſtile train, a ſignal could be immediately made, (perhaps by fire or ſmoke), which being ſoon diſcovered by thoſe who were next in ſight, they could inſtantly repeat the ſignal; and thus the whole inhabitants of the country capable of bearing arms, might in a very ſhort time be collected and armed to repel the common enemy.

Many cairns or heaps of ſmall ſtones thrown together are to be ſeen. In theſe cairns are contained urns, wherein the aſhes of ſome renowned chiefs who fell in the field of battle, are depoſited; in one of theſe lately dug up, was found a large ſtone cheſt or coffin, made of four ſtones, its dimenſions were about five feet long, by four and a half broad; upon the layer, which is a large ſingle ſtone of nearly ſix feet by five, and a foot and a half thick, was found the handle of ſome weapon, reſembling much the hilt of a ſmall ſword, but quite corroded with ruſt; and a pin which ſeemed to be compound metal, about ſeven inches long, ſomewhat rounder than a pretty large probe, at the one end flat and broad, and the other round and ſharp pointed. Within the coffin was an urn of burnt clay, nicely carved, yet without any inſcription; the urn being broke by the tools employed in removing the layer, none of the contents were diſcovered. Other urns of a ſimilar kind have been formerly dug up in this diſtrict.

At

At the bottom of one of thoſe high rocks, and at a ſmall diſtance from it, on the eaſt ſide, is a huge perpendicular ſtone, or natural obeliſk of uncommon height and magnitude, which, when ſeen from a diſtance, very much reſembles a large ſteeple. This ſtone is about 360 feet in circumference at the baſe; a little below the middle it is a good deal rounder, and thence leſſening upwards, ſeems to end nearly in a ſharp point; its height is thought to exceed three hundred feet.

There is alſo in the ſame ſide of the pariſh, in the march between it and the pariſh of Portree, a beautiful fall of water, or cataract, the perpendicular height of which may be about ninety feet; what is moſt remarkable relative to this fall, is, that nearly oppoſite to the middle of it, there is an arched hollow path acroſs the rock, along which five or ſix people may walk abreaſt with the greateſt ſafety, quite ſecure from and unmoleſted by the body of water that rolls over them, and which in this ſituation they might miſtake for a thick pillar of cloſe ſmoke, did they not ſee it daſh upon the rocks below.

Diſeaſes, &c.—No local ſickneſs or diſtempers of any kind are prevalent in the pariſh. In a wet open ſeaſon, rheumatiſm, coughs, and colds, are frequent; ſome epidemical fevers appear too, and are at times mortal. The winter and ſprings are generally damp, cold, and piercing. The air, however, on the whole, is not thought unſalubrious, and ſome inſtances of longevity tend to confirm the opinion; five or ſix people have died within the laſt two years, whoſe reſpective ages were from eighty-four to ninety, and many are now living in this diſtrict above eighty years of age.

Rents, &c.—There are ſix proprietors, four of whom have become proprietors in the year 1779, at which time they feued that diſtrict of the pariſh that was formerly the ſole property

of the Laird of M'Leod, of which he has retained the ſuperiority, and a handſome annual feu-duty.

The diviſion of the pariſh belonging to Lord M'Donald, rents at above L. 800. That belonging to M'Leod of Raſay, at about L. 120; and that diſtrict, the property of the above mentioned feuers, rented when purchaſed by them for about L. 200 ſter. but would now undoubtedly bring them as much more, were they to let their reſpective properties.

Schools, Church, &c.—There are no public ſchools in this diſtrict. The places of worſhip are four, at a conſiderable diſtance from each other. The veſtiges of a pariſh kirk only remain; an eſtimate of one has been taken laſt year, with a view of building early this ſeaſon, but no farther ſteps have hitherto been taken. There is no manſe, the preſent incumbent, Mr Malcolm M'Leod, lives on a ſmall farm which he rents from Lord M'Donald; he became miniſter of Snizort in the year 1788. His predeceſſors in the pariſh were Meſſrs Archibald, Donald, Archibald, and William M'Queens, all in lineal deſcent, the ſon uniformly ſucceeding the father for four generations. The preſent miniſter is married, and has four ſons and three daughters.

The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 75 ſter. The patronage is claimed by the crown and the Laird of M'Leod, but both concurring in the ſettlement of the preſent incumbent, who had a regular preſentation from each, the queſtion of right was left to be diſcuſſed before the court competent, at ſome future period.

The name of the pariſh, as well as the names of moſt places in it, are Daniſh; ſome indeed are of Celtic origin; and in ſome inſtances, the places take their names from their local ſituation.

Kelp.—The quantity of kelp manufactured here is not conſiderable, being only about fifty tons yearly, and this on the weſt ſhores alone; thoſe on the eaſt are bold, deep, and of difficult acceſs, and yield no ware for making kelp.

There are ſome freſh water lochs, a few of which abound in fine large red trout.

Herring Fiſhery.—Conſiderable quantities of herring have viſited Loch Snizort for ſome years paſt, commonly in the month of Auguſt, where many of the herring buſſes have been pretty ſucceſsful, but the country people, from the difficulty of procuring ſalt, have not reaped from it the advantages they might receive, were the ſalt laws ſuch as to allow them to furniſh themſelves at an eaſier and cheaper rate.

The fuel uſed through this whole diſtrict is peats; they are cut from the moſs, chiefly in the month of May, and when the ſummer is wet, the inhabitants are commonly very ill ſupplied.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF WEST-CALDER.

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN.)

By the Rev. Mr MUCKERSIE.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Weſt-Calder lies in the county of Mid-Lothian, in the preſbytery of Linlithgow, and in the ſynod of Lothian and Tweedale. The average breadth of this pariſh, is about 5½ miles, and the length 10 miles. It is bounded on the ſouth, by the Cairn hills, and on the north, by the Briech water, which falls into the Almond, at the north-eaſt point of this pariſh. The ſouthern part, which lies contiguous to the pariſhes of Dunſyre and Carnwath, conſiſts of high and mooriſh grounds, interſperſed with moraſſes of conſiderable extent. Theſe grounds, for the moſt part, incapable of cultivation, are parcelled out in ſheep farms. The arable parts of this pariſh vary conſiderably in their value, either from the degree of improvement, or their local ſituation; but the ſoil of the whole pariſh is of a black moſſy earth, or a wet clay, both on a till bottom.

The height above the level of the ſea, is from 450 to 700 feet; and from this circumſtance joined to the neighbourhood

of

of the Cairn hills, this pariſh is expoſed to conſiderable degrees of cold and moiſture. The chief ſtorms of wind and rain are from the ſouth and ſouth-weſt.

Agriculture and Produce.—The modes of agriculture moſt generally practiſed, in all probability have been nearly the ſame, ſince any part of the pariſh was cultivated. Hence agriculture, except in thoſe inſtances when the common methods are departed from, is in its ſimpleſt and rudeſt ſtate. The whole proceſs conſiſts of ſpreading dung on lee; allowing it to lie for ſome time on the ſurface, and then taking three or four crops of oats. After this, the field lies three or four years in graſs, and the proceſs begins again. In place of dung, the middle of a high ridge, is ſometimes opened with the plough, and the furrow mixed with lime, and ſpread over the ſurface. It is ſomewhat aſtoniſhing, that notwithſtanding this mode of agriculture, the farmer frequently reaps apparently luxuriant crops; and perhaps the only probable way of accounting for it is, that in many inſtances, the crop is not ſufficiently ripe to exhauſt the manure. The farmers here have diſcovered, that lime acts as a powerful ſolvent on all kinds of moſſy earth; and they have applied the diſcovery, with great ſucceſs to the purpoſes of agriculture. The ſpirit of improvement has now begun to reach this place. The ſoil in many caſes, has been by ſome of the intelligent proprietors ameliorated, by encloſing with double rows of hedges and ditches, leaving a conſiderable ſpace between, to be filled up with young trees, adapted to the climate. This has ſerved the double purpoſe of enriching the ſoil, and rendering the appearance of the country more beautiful. One proprietor in particular, has improved his grounds on the beſt principles of agriculture; and he has ſucceeded in raiſing turnips, and in a proper rotation of crops.

Oats,

Oats, potatoes, flax, barley, peas, and turnips, are raiſed in this pariſh. The grain moſt generally attended to, is oats; the average produce of which may be from 4½ to 5 bolls an acre. When the ground happens to be laid down with graſs ſeeds, the prevailing crop is rye graſs. Of this, there are two kinds, an annual and a perennial. The former gives a double quantity of graſs the firſt year, which is thought in moſt caſes, to compenſate the continuance of the other. A conſiderable quantity of rye graſs ſeed is preſerved; and beſides what is ſufficient for next year's ſowing, there are frequently in good years, from 300 to 400 bolls ſold out of the pariſh.

There are conſiderably more horſes reared than ſupply the wants of agriculture; and the rent is moſt commonly paid from the ſale of cattle. The high grounds in the ſouth and weſt parts of the pariſh, are divided into 15 ſheep farms; and it is conjectured, that the whole lands employed in this manner, may maintain about 6000 ſheep.

The ploughing is now moſt frequently carried on by two horſes, and Small's plough has been introduced; while, at the ſame time, a great many of the old farmers regret the deſuetude of the old Scots plough, and a greater number of horſes; and affirm that their ſoil requires a deep and large furrow. It is ſcarcely poſſible to make any conjecture, with reſpect to the rent of arable ground; becauſe the greater number of farms have ſome outfield or moſs, or moor, connected with them. Were it otherwiſe, perhaps the ordinary rate of arable ground would be from 12s. to 20s. an acre. The ſize of farms is ſcarcely in any inſtance greater than what is neceſſary to ſupport a family; and almoſt every attempt to accumulate this kind of property in this pariſh, has brought ruin on the projector.

Character

Character and Manners of the People.—In almoſt every inſtance, the local ſituations of men form their characters. The inhabitants of this pariſh are much excluded from the commerce of the world, and nearly on the ſame level with regard to each other; their attention is directed to few objects, and hence they are ſimple and unaffected in their manners; while they poſſeſs a wonderful degree of ſagacity and acuteneſs, in every thing connected with the circle of their purſuits. From the great number of ſmall farms, every individual may look forward to an eſtabliſhment in life; and hence his attention to buſineſs and induſtry is excited. In this ſtate of ſociety, it muſt be confeſſed, there is little ſcope for that ambition, which impels a man to riſe above his humble ſphere; but this ſituation ſuppoſes contentment and happineſs. From this circumſtance too, it may be mentioned, as a character of this people, that the advantages which they cannot ſecure to themſelves, they wiſh to convey to their children; and it has been obſerved, that a greater number of this pariſh have been deſigned for the church, than, perhaps, of any ten pariſhes of equal extent in a highly cultivated country, and in a given time. The great bulk of the inhabitants of this pariſh have a conſiderable ſhare of religious knowledge, and a becoming fervency in their devotion. It is hoped, that they will not be charged with ſingularity of manners, when we mention, that there are not perhaps ſix families in this pariſh, who do not daily, and in a family capacity, aſſemble together to acknowledge the Author of their mercies. Altogether detached from the capital, they are unacquainted with its vices. Drunkenneſs, and debauchery of all ſorts are ſcarcely known; and there are very few inſtances of men continuing unmarried, who have the means of ſupporting a family. This pariſh has been particularly blamed with diſaffection to the preſent conſtitu-

tion. From the ſtate of ſociety in which they are placed, the repreſentation of any kind of oppreſſion, whether real or imaginary, is apt to affect their minds. This, however, is but a momentary impulſe; for, when they find that the chief articles of life, by which they are ſupported, are not the ſubject of taxation; and that what they bring to the market, is raiſed in its value, by the very ſyſtem of which they are taught to complain, the good ſenſe of the pariſh is ſoon brought to prevail over the deſigns of thoſe who would miſlead them.

Population Table.

	Families.	Souls.	Under 9 years old.	Males.	Females.	Seceders.
Heritors -	11	70	1	31	38	26
Farmers -	65	406	66	185	155	163
Cottagers -	25	107	29	40	38	24
Day-labourers	26	102	30	34	38	21
Widows -	40	67	3	6	58	7
Inn-keeper -	1	5	0	3	2	7
Smiths -	3	14	2	6	6	11
Coopers -	2	6	2	3	1	4
Flax-dreſſer -	1	5	3	1	1	0
Wrights & Maſons	7	33	8	14	11	20
Weavers -	8	32	5	15	12	5
Carriers -	6	17	0	8	9	9
Shoe-makers -	7	29	6	12	11	18
Millers -	3	10	3	4	3	0
Taylors -	4	18	4	9	5	6
Miniſter -	1	8	2	2	4	0
Schoolmaſter -	1	4	2	1	1	0
Not included in the above table.	10	35	3	15	17	7
	221	968	169	389	410	321

From

From the above table of population, it appears, that the average number to a family, is 4 and near $\frac{4}{16}$; and that the males and females, are as 16 to 17. In the account of Seceders, none are reckoned below 9 years of age*. Of thoſe Seceders, 142 are Antiburghers, 169 Burghers, 7 are connected with the preſbytery of Relief, and 3 are Cameronians.

The cauſes of ſeparation from the eſtabliſhed church have been extremely various in this pariſh. In conſequence of the laſt ſettlement, from 40 to 50 perſons, have joined the Seceſſion. Of thoſe ſeparated from the church for the laſt 10 years before this period, the ſtrictneſs of the church diſcipline ſeems to have been the chief cauſe.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—This pariſh, previous to the year 1646, was a part of the pariſh of Mid-Calder, and had a chapel belonging to it, at a place which ſtill retains the name of Chapelton; about a mile eaſt from the village of Weſt-Calder. The preſent proprietor, (Mr Gloag), has now in his poſſeſſion a large hollow ſtone, which ſeems to have been the font of the chapel.

In the year 1647, the commiſſioners for the plantation of kirks, and valuation of teinds, valued the teinds of the pariſh of Calder Comitis, which included the pariſhes of Mid and Weſt-Calders; and allocated the whole teinds as ſtipend to the miniſters of the two pariſhes. The miniſter's ſtipend is paid in money, and amounts to 800 merks; together with 50 merks for communion elements, and 30 merks for graſs. In addition to this, the glebe conſiſts of twenty Scots acres.

* The numbers ſtated of this pariſh in 1755, were 2396; no more than 1289, are now mentioned. But as none are here reckoned among the Seceders below 9 years of age, the diminution muſt in ſome degree, be attributed to this circumſtance.

Schools.—The pariſh ſchool has generally attending it from 50 to 70 ſcholars. Of theſe, from 6 to 10 are receiving the rudiments of a claſſical education. The ſchool fees are 1 ſhilling per quarter for Engliſh, 1s 6d for writing, and for Arithmetic, and 2s 6d for Latin. The ſchool-maſter's ſalary, is L. 5 : 5 : 7d¼, and he has twenty ſhillings more yearly by a mortification. But a reſpectable number of the heritors have lately agreed to augment the ſalary, by a voluntary contribution, to continue during their pleaſure. Beſides the eſtabliſhed ſchool, there are ſeveral others in the pariſh. One of theſe has been lately erected, by one or two of the ſmall heritors, in oppoſition to the pariſh ſchool. The reſt are occaſional and ambulatory, conſiſting of the children of a dozen or more parents in the ſame neighbourhood; who, on account of their diſtance from the public ſchool, are compelled to hire a teacher for their own families.

Antiquities.—Towards the ſouthern extremity of this pariſh, there is an old caſtle, which is reported to have been fortified by Cromwell, to repreſs the depredations of the moſs troopers. On the weſt part of Hayfield eſtate, there was, a few years ago, the remains of an old camp, known by the name of Cromwell-wit. This is now converted into a corn-field; and it remains altogether uncertain, whether the name was given as a mark of Cromwell's underſtanding in the choice of the ſituation, or as a proof of his folly; although the laſt appears more probable.

About two miles due ſouth, there is on the top of a riſing ground called Caſtle Graig, the remains of a ſmall Roman camp, in a pretty entire ſtate. Within a few years, ſeveral Roman coins have been dug up from the environs of this encampment, on which the Roman eagle was ſufficiently apparent,

parent, but the circumſtances which could lead to the period at which they were coined, where completely effaced. Excepting this circumſtance there are no proofs of ancient population within this diſtrict.

There are a few names of places, as Briech, Cobberſhaw, and Polbeth, which ſeem to be of Gaelic derivation. But in every inſtance where a Gaelic name is employed, there is a river, or a moraſs, or a wood, to which the name might have been given before the country was inhabited. In all other inſtances, the names of places, farm houſes, &c. are in the old Scottiſh dialect, and indicate a recent date. The following names may be mentioned as examples; Blackmire, Heugh-head, Slate-heugh, Birny-hill, Moſs-end, Raſhie-hill, Back-i-the-moſs, Stank-head, Whiteſykes, and Turnimoon.

Coal, &c.—The greater part of this pariſh moſt probably ſtands on coal. It has been dug for in various places, but never to much advantage, except at Longford, on the eſtate of Mr Douglas of Baads. The working of this coal has been diſcontinued for many years. But we underſtand, that the proprietor has now given a leaſe; and ſome attempts have been already made to find out the beſt place for erecting an engine.

Limeſtone is alſo found here in great abundance. One great lime-work at Limefield is now nearly exhauſted. The ſtratum of limeſtone ſeems to have been in thickneſs about nine or ten feet, with a free-ſtone roof, and a dip of one foot in three. Great pillars have been left to ſupport the roof, and the limeſtone has been every where wrought down to the level. By this means an excavation has been formed worthy of the attention of the curious obſerver.

Pariſh

Pariſh Regiſter.—No preciſe account can be given from the ſeſſion records of marriages, or births, or funerals.

Diſeaſes, &c.—The only diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh are fluxes, and intermitting fevers, in the end of autumn. There are very few inſtances of inoculation, and the reaſon againſt it, is altogether the religious one, of not bringing on diſeaſes before the appointed time. This pariſh is ſufficiently healthy, and there may be alive at preſent about 8 perſons from eighty to ninety years of age.

Poor Funds.—The funds for ſupplying the poor of this pariſh ariſe from the weekly collections, from the mort-cloth money, from 2s. 6d. given at each marriage, and from the intereſt of a bond for L. 100. The mort-cloth and marriage money, have been nearly the ſame for fifty years paſt. The following table will ſhow the increaſe of collections ſince the year 1743. The ſum following the different years, is for ſix months in the ſummer and autumn.

In 1743	£. 5	11	1
1773	6	3	9
1783	10	10	1½
1793	9	16	5
1794	10	8	4

The number who receive charity from the poor's funds, is from 10 to 15, and the ſum given to each of them is at an average 3s. per month.

NUMBER

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF EASTWOOD.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

By the Rev. Mr STEVENSON M'GILL.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Eaſtwood lies about three miles S. W. from the town of Glaſgow, ſurrounded by the pa-iſhes of Cathcart, Mearns, Nielſton, Paiſley, and Govan. The greateſt length of it may be about four miles, the breadth of it about three; but its form is very irregular, ſo that its dimenſions in different quarters greatly vary.

A very populous village, named Pollock-ſhaws, lies in that part of the pariſh which approaches Glaſgow. It is ſituated in a fine valley, interſperſed with trees, and watered by the river Cart and Auldhouſe burn. On the one ſide, it is ſkirted with neat bleachfields in conſtant verdure; on the o-ther, with well cultivated incloſures; and affords from the ſurrounding eminence, a delightful proſpect of a manufactur-ing yet rural village.

In its general appearance, the pariſh of Eaſtwood preſents all that fine variety for which this part of the county of Ren-frew is diſtinguiſhed. The little hills rejoicing on every ſide, have

have their brows adorned with plantations or natural woods. A number of ſmall rivers wander among the vallies; but chiefly the Cart, ſwelled with a variety of rivulets, purſues among them its courſe, till paſſing with many windings by the houſe of Pollock, it enters near the bottom of Crockſton the Abbey pariſh of Paiſley.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The ſoil is various; in ſome parts light, in others heavy; but excepting a tract on the ſouth ſide, which is tilly and barren, it is in general fertile. The lands are well incloſed; and the face of the fields affords ample proof, that the knowledge and the induſtry of the farmer have, during the laſt twenty years, greatly increaſed.

The mode of farming is ſimilar to that which has been deſcribed in the accounts of neighbouring pariſhes. Potatoe farming ſeems to be particularly cultivated here, and to be well underſtood. Horſe-hoeing is the method moſt commonly followed, and where the grounds are light and dry is followed with great ſucceſs. Sir John Maxwell ſold in 1793 ſome fields of potatoes at L. 12: 10 per acre, yet the perſons in the village who purchaſed them, after all expences were deducted, had them at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per peck of the Renfrew meaſure. Dr Smith in his Wealth of Nations, ſtrongly recommends the cultivation of potatoes as a cheap and healthful food. The porters of London, he obſerves, are among the ſtrongeſt men in the world, and they being almoſt all of the Iriſh nation, have been chiefly fed upon potatoes. He inſiſts too, that they are equally conducive to good looks, and as examples, mentions the women of the ſame nation. It might be added, that no food is more univerſally acceptable to the taſte, or is capable of being uſed in a greater variety of forms. Might not the improvement of it be conſiderably aſſiſted by attending more to the kinds which ſhould be cultivated,

vated, aſcertaining more clearly than has yet been done, their different qualities, and appropriating each kind to its proper ſoil.

The neighbourhood of large manufacturing towns renders the market to the farmers of this pariſh ready and certain. But the price of meal not having increaſed in the ſame proportion with that of the other articles of life, and with the price of labour, ſome intelligent perſons have begun to lay down their farms chiefly in graſs. In general, about one third is in tillage, and two thirds in paſture. There are kept about 80 horſes, and 350 cows, but ſeldom any ſheep.

Whether the introduction of manufactures into the pariſh has contributed to the improvement of its agriculture, it is not eaſy preciſely to aſcertain. The probability is, that it has contributed to it, though not perhaps in that degree which the theories of philoſophers would lead us to expect. The addition made to the number of inhabitants, muſt increaſe the demand for ſeveral of the articles of living. This leads to induſtry and the deſire of improvement. The wealth of the farmer increaſes; and, he has both ſufficient means and inducements to cultivate his grounds to the utmoſt. This mode of arguing is natural; but by fixing our attention upon one view of an object, other views equally natural and juſt are apt to be forgotten. Circumſtances frequently exiſt of an oppoſite tendency; which, if they do not counterbalance, at leaſt conſiderably counteract the beneficial effects of manufactures upon huſbandry. By their neighbourhood the price of labour is increaſed. In order to procure labourers, the farmer muſt render the wages of his ſervants equal to thoſe given by the manufacturer. A more expenſive ſtyle of dreſs and living generally prevails where the price of labour is high. And the landlord finding his expences in-

creaſing from the ſame cauſes, naturally thinks of raiſing the rent of his land. Theſe circumſtances diminiſh the ſurplus of profit which remains to the farmer, and conſequently leſſen his ability for extenſive improvement. It is farther to be remarked, that the value of many articles of life does not actually riſe with the neighbourhood of manufactures and with the population of a pariſh. The price of meal is not higher in Renfrewſhire at preſent than it was thirty years ago, when manufactures were in their infancy. To give advantage to the farmer, much depends alſo on the kind of food for which the people have a taſte. If they ſhall chuſe to live chiefly on butcher meat, the advantage of their neighbourhood muſt be greatly diminiſhed, becauſe ſuch food can be as eaſily afforded from a conſiderable diſtance, as from the immediate vicinage. To this muſt be added, that manufactures, by affording a greater and quicker profit, tempt men to employ their money, genius, and chief attention in thoſe more alluring branches of induſtry, while the ſlower and ſmaller profits of agriculture are apt to be undervalued. Theſe are ſome of the diſadvantages to the farmers attending the neighbourhood of manufactures; though it is not aſſerted, that they are ſufficient to counterbalance their good effects. They are diſadvantages, too, which it ſhould be remembered, are not always attached to the neighbourhood of manufactures. Manufactures may be flouriſhing, when the manufacturer is fully ſupplied with hands, and when his manufacture will not admit of more active capital, than he has already employed. In this ſituation, the perſons who cannot find employment from him, will offer themſelves at a moderate price to the farmer; the wealth which the manufactures have produced, but cannot employ, will be expended on the improve-

ment

ment of land; and the manufacturer himſelf will carry into this new line of buſineſs, that ſpirit of enterprize, and thoſe active habits, which diſtinguiſh him in his own profeſſion.

Theſe obſervations might be extended to the general effects of manufacturers upon a nation. Writers have commonly conſidered it as a ſettled point, that population muſt always increaſe with the increaſe of wealth, and that improvement in agriculture muſt always correſpond with the increaſe of population. But both theſe principles require great limitation. The population of a country does not neceſſarily increaſe with the increaſe of wealth. Abundance of proviſion, is without doubt a neceſſary requiſite in order to an increaſe of population. But it is equally neceſſary, that this abundance ſhould be properly applied. Without attention to this, no ſurplus may remain for an increaſe of inhabitants; nay the abundance may prove the mean of decreaſe and imbecillity. A nation may in this reſpect be in the ſame ſtate as an individual. A perſon who is accuſtomed to a certain ſtyle of life, though he may have abundance in the abſtract, yet from his habits he may conſume upon himſelf what would have provided for a numerous offſpring. He is therefore in the ſame ſituation as if he were really in a ſtate of poverty. If he ſhall marry, his habits and mode of life may be unfavourable both to the number and the health of his offſpring. While the labouring man rears ten or twelve healthy children, the children of the luxurious, fewer in number, are often reared with difficulty, and are at laſt both weak and unhealthy. This may certainly be the ſtate of a nation. If from any circumſtances, the body of the people acquire a taſte for luxurious living and diſſipated pleaſures, or ſpend their days in unhealthy occupations, the nation may

be in poverty in the midſt of abundance, and rear both fewer and more weakly children than when it nurſed them in a more hardy and ſteril ſoil, and under a more inclement and unſettled ſky.

Neither will improvement in agriculture always correſpond with an increaſe of population. If from ſterility of ſoil and the high price of labour, the merchant can import grain from foreign countries cheaper than the farmer can raiſe it; or if the genius and induſtry of the country purſue with a ſtrong bent a tract different from agriculture, may not the cultivation of our own fields be neglected, and the nation be reduced to depend on other countries for its ſuſtenance? This is an evil which may in time remedy itſelf. Yet inconveniences may ariſe in the interval; and, it is ſtill an object of attention, that the general aſſertion, that agriculture muſt always improve with the increaſe of population and manufactures, is too unqualified, and ought not always to be conſidered as indiſputable by philoſophers and legiſlators.

The average of land is about L. 1 per acre. Grounds in the neighbourhood of Pollock which had been for ſome time in lee, have frequently been let for two years at L. 6: 10 per acre. The valued rent of the pariſh, is about L. 3300 Scots money; the real rent, it is believed, about L. 3400 ſterling. This is divided among five landed proprietors; among whom this pariſh has the happineſs of numbering the two aunts of the preſent patron, Mrs Montgomery of Auldhouſe, and her ſiſter Miſs Maxwell; whoſe reſidence diffuſes bleſſings on their neighbourhood, and who are the diſtinguiſhed, though unaffected examples of every virtue and of every duty.

Natural

Natural Hiſtory.—The natural hiſtorian will find, in ſeveral parts of this pariſh, objects meriting his attention. In the neighbourhood of Thornlie-bank, a ſmall village, there is a ſtratum of ſchiſtus, which has particularly attracted notice. It is a good many yards in thickneſs, and contains a great variety of marine productions, in a petrified ſtate. Specimens of ſeveral genera of ſhells are found in fine preſervation. The orthoceratites both plane and fulcated, retain the original ſhell; a circumſtance which rarely occurs in natural hiſtory. The ſpecimens of ſhells, &c. are filled with iron ſtone, containing a proportion of lime. Many nodules of iron ſtone of different ſhapes and dimenſions, are imbedded in the ſtratum of ſchiſtus *.

Manufactures.—The manufactures carried on, are chiefly the weaving of muſlins, bleaching, printing of calicoes, and cotton ſpinning. In the weaving branches, there were employed, in 1793, about 470 looms: In printing, bleaching, and the occupations connected with them, about 226 men and boys, and 174 women. There are alſo two cotton mills in the pariſh, which at the ſame period, employed above 600 perſons of different ages. The principal print-field here is among the oldeſt in Scotland. The pariſh ſeems well adapted to manufactures; and in general, the people are more healthy than thoſe uſually are who follow ſuch occupations. This may be owing in part, to the freſh currents of air, which blow frequently with conſiderable ſtrength betwixt the ſurrounding heights; and very much to the tradeſman mingling ſometimes with his ſedentary employment, the exhilarating and healthful exerciſes of the garden and the field.

Population.

* Mr David Ure.

Population.—The population of this pariſh, in 1793, when its numbers were taken, amounted to 2642 young and old perſons, divided into 558 families. Of this number 1349 are males, 1293 females. Below 10 years of age, 361 are males, 351 females; below 20, 352 are males, 304 females; below 50, 505 are males, 480 females; below 70, 106 are males, 136 females; below 100, 25 are males, and 22 are females. The average number of perſons to each family is ſomewhat more than $4\frac{3}{7}$. During ten years preceeding 1704, it appears by the regiſter of the pariſh, there were 219 baptiſms, and 81 marriages. During the ſame period, preceding 1793, there were 795 baptiſms, and 234 marriages. The average of births in a year, during the firſt period, is about 22; during the laſt period, 79. Suppoſing the proportion betwixt births, and the whole population, to have been the ſame in each period, the numbers will have been tripled in the courſe of one hundred years. In the births of the firſt ten years, there are 121 males, and 98 females. In the births of the laſt ten years, there are 402 males, 393 females. The births of laſt year were 94; the proportion between the births and the whole population in that year, was near as one to $28\frac{1}{3}$.

Church School, &c.—The patronage of the pariſh belongs to the family of Nether-pollok. The ſtipend is 5 chalders of meal, 1 chalder of bear, 300 merks of money, 100 merks for communion elements. The glebe, including the ground occupied by the manſe, offices and garden, is believed to conſiſt of about 5 acres. There is no land allotted for paſture. The manſe has been lately re-built. It is a commodious handſome houſe, and is very pleaſantly ſituated. The manſes which have been lately built in this neighbourhood, have, in general, ſhewn the heritors of the country to be actuated by ſentiments

ſentiments at once ſuited to the liberal ſpirit of gentlemen, and reſpectful to the office and character of the miniſters of religion. The church was a few years ago alſo re-built. At that time it was removed from the neighbourhood of the manſe, to a ſituation nearer to Pollok-ſhaws. It is now beautifully ſituated upon a riſing ground above the village, and is one of the neateſt country churches within the diſtrict. The ſchool-houſe too was lately re-built, and equally with the other public buildings, does honour to the heritors of the pariſh. The number of ſcholars is 105: Of this number, 36 are taught reading of Engliſh, 23 writing, 18 arithmetic, 4 book-keeping, 2 mathematicks, and 22 Latin. Among theſe 17 boarders are included. There is an annual examination of the ſchool, which is attended by the principal perſons of the pariſh, and a number of the miniſters and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. On this occaſion, prizes of uſeful books are diſtributed among the young people. Occaſional examinations when the ſcholars have no previous information alſo take place. Theſe methods ſeem well calculated to excite emulation, and vigorous exertion; and the appearance of the ſcholars has hitherto done credit to their teacher. The ſalary of the maſter, is L. 100 Scots, with a free houſe and garden. He enjoys alſo the emoluments ariſing from being clerk to the Seſſion. The fees of the ſchool are, for Latin 4s, Arithmetic 3s, Mathematicks 5s, writing 2s 6d, Engliſh 2s per quarter, for perfecting in book-keeping, L. 1 : 1. The terms for boarding, waſhing and education, are L. 20 *per annum.*

Poor.—The number of enrolled poor is 24. But about 10 neceſſitous perſons beſides theſe, are occaſionally ſupplied every month. The funds for ſupplying the poor are the weekly collections at the church, the product of mort-

cloths,

cloths, and the intereſt of about L. 500 of mortified money. The average of diſburſements during the laſt ten years, is L. 74:2. The Seſſion educates beſides 8 poor children. Various charitable ſocieties are alſo inſtituted throughout the pariſh. The object of theſe is to aſſiſt ſuch perſons in diſtreſs, or their widows and children, as have contributed when in health, a certain annual ſum to the funds of that ſociety to which they belong. They ſeem calculated to do much good, and annually diſburſe conſiderable ſums. No beggars belong to this pariſh; but this want is abundantly ſupplied from the ſuburbs of Glaſgow. Were the laws againſt vagrants put in execution, and were every pariſh obliged to maintain its own poor, the real objects of charity would be much better provided than they are, and much idleneſs and worthleſſneſs would be prevented. The money given to vagrants is often not a relief to the poor, but an encouragement to vice; whereas, when the poor are confined to their own pariſh, which is obliged by law to maintain them, our charity is beſtowed only upon proper objects, with whoſe caſe we are acquainted, and in whom we are more intereſted. The money given to vagrants diminiſhes, beſides, our *ability* to relieve the truly neceſſitous. If a perſon can ſpare ten pounds each year to the indigent, and gives one half of this to vagrants, he takes five pounds from the funds of the miſerable; and by means of it perhaps encourages idleneſs, drunkeneſs, and debauchery.

The Seſſion meets regularly on the firſt monday of every month. The whole diſburſements are examined annually, at a meeting compoſed jointly of the heritors and the Seſſion; a practice which is ſatisfactory to the minds of all parties, and by which any ſubject which ſeems to be of importance to the intereſts of the pariſh, can be conſidered with advantage and effect.

Pariſh

Pariſh Records.—The records of Seſſion extend back to the year 1689. They contain, frequently, circumſtances which mark the peculiar manners of former times. In the earlier periods, the meetings of Seſſion were ſeldom held. The good morals which prevailed, it is preſumed, rendered frequent meetings unneceſſary. This is the more remarkable, when it is conſidered that every ſpecies of vice, and even of impropriety, were ſubjects of cognizance. Sometimes too, we find their attention directed to objects which will appear to the preſent age, of a ſingular kind. A woman is delated for uſing charms at Hallow-even; who, to uſe the words of the record, confeſſes, "That at the inſtigation of an old "woman from Ireland, ſhe brought in a pint of water from "a well which brides and burials paſs over, and dipt her "ſhirt into it, and hung it before the fire; that ſhe either "dreamed, or elſe there came ſomething and turned about "the chair on which her ſhirt was, but ſhe *could not well ſee* "*what it was.*" Upon this, ſhe was ordered to be rebuked before the congregation. Let not the wiſdom of our fathers however be treated on ſuch accounts lightly. The innocence or guilt of all actions depends much upon the views which governed the actor. What may be now mere amuſement, when it was performed under the belief of incantation, and with a view to the agency of evil ſpirits, was a proper ſubject of animadverſion to thoſe whoſe duty it was to watch over the moral and religious conduct of the people. In different meetings of Seſſion, and among the elders, are to be found the names of Lord Pollok, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, and his nephew and heir Sir John Maxwell; and, it is related of them, that they conceived it to be their honour, as well as their duty, to ſupport in that pariſh over which they had influence, the cauſe of religion, and her conſtant attendants, decency, order, and true happineſs.

The ancient family of Nether-pollok has been long the principal family in this pariſh. It has in its poſſeſſion ſeveral original papers of conſiderable antiquity, which deſerve attention. Among theſe, the chief which the writer of this account has had an opportunity of obſerving, are the following: A precept from the Lords of Council of King James V. to meet his Queen when ſhe came firſt to Scotland, dated 1527; a letter from Q. Mary Regent, 1559; a letter from Morton and others, anent the murder of the King, 1567; a letter from Q. Mary, before the battle of Langſide; a letter from King James for an hackney to the Queen, 1590; another for proviſion to the Prince's baptiſm, in 1594; and the original, with the ſubſcriptions of the firſt ſolemn league, ſigned by the King and Council, 1587. The letter from King James, for proviſion to the Prince's baptiſm, is a great curioſity, and deſerves to be made public, as affording a ſingular picture of the times. The original of the ſolemn league, is written with great diſtinctneſs and beauty, in a character reſembling Italic print; and can be read with as much facility, as the moſt modern writing. The ſolemn league was at firſt a deed dictated by wiſdom, and a juſt zeal for our deareſt intereſts; but the peculiarities of a party which were afterwards aſſociated with it, and which by many, are conſidered as having belonged to the original tranſaction, have brought it into diſrepute.

There have been five miniſters in this pariſh, beſides the preſent incumbent, ſince the Revolution. It is ſingular that two of theſe, namely, Mr Crawford, and Mr Wodrow, have written hiſtories of the Church of Scotland. The hiſtory written by Mr Wodrow is univerſally known. He was born about the year 1680, and died in 1734. Beſides his worth as a miniſter, he was a man of extraordinary induſtry and application, to ſuch reſearches as were connected with the

the antiquities of Scotland. He had made a large collection of pamphlets and manuſcripts. He wrote a great deal; and particularly employed himſelf during the laſt years of his life, in writing the lives of the principal learned men of Scotland, whether gentlemen, miniſters, or biſhops; who lived before the period at which his hiſtory commences. Some of his manuſcripts with the materials relating to them, are now in the library of the faculty of Advocates. Some of them are in the repoſitories of the Church; and ſome part of them, his biography in particular, is ſtill in the hands of his deſcendants. He was among the firſt who attended to natural hiſtory in this country; and he left behind him a ſmall muſeum of foſſils, chiefly collected from his own pariſh, and alſo a collection of medals. The church hiſtory of Mr Crawford has never been publiſhed, and therefore the writer of this account has been at pains to procure ſome information reſpecting it. The manuſcript is in the poſſeſſion of the church. It conſiſts of two volumes folio, containing upwards of 1400 pages. Prefixed to the hiſtory is a ſhort life of the author. From this life it appears, that he was a native of Greenock; that he obtained the degree of A. M. in the College of Edinburgh, and that by the patronage of Mr John Carſtairs, one of the miniſters of Glaſgow, he was ſent to Utrecht. There he ſtudied two years, wrote ſeveral treatiſes, chiefly controverſial, and maintained ſome public diſputations. In the year 1671, he was licenſed at Glaſgow, to preach the Goſpel, by a meeting of Clergymen, held for the purpoſe in a ſecret manner, in order to avoid the penalties denounced at that time againſt the preſbyterian non-conformiſts. In 1671 he was, with the conſent of Sir John Maxwell, privately ordained miniſter of Eaſtwood at Paiſley. Enjoying the friendſhip of the family of Pollok, he often in thoſe perilous times preached to ſuch perſons as ventured

to aſſemble in the houſe of his patron. Though frequently ſearched for, he had the good fortune to eſcape falling into the hands of his perſecutors; but his patron was ſubjected to ſevere diſtreſſes, on account of the protection which he afforded him. After the acceſſion of King William, he bore a principal part in arranging and ſettling the affairs of the church. His hiſtory commences with the introduction of Chriſtianity into Scotland, and ends at the year 1680. He appears to deſcribe at great length, the occurrences both civil and eccleſiaſtical, which took place in the reigns of Charles I. and II. The wars which the firſt carried on againſt his parliament, and the perſecution with which the laſt ſo long haraſſed the Preſbyterians, compoſe a great part of the ſecond volume. I ſhall take the liberty of tranſcribing the two following paſſages from his book. "About the end of "this year (1664) appeared a great comet, which continued "a great time; after which enſued the plague, and the Dutch "war. Some ſaid that when faithful miniſters were diſcharged "preaching, God ſet a preacher in the heavens, which no "biſhop could depoſe. In March 1665, appeared another co-"met, moving from the north-eaſt, to the ſouth-weſt, conti-"nuing viſible for 20 days together. This ſpring there was "ſuch froſt and ſnow, that there was no tillage from the "end of December, to the 13th of March *." After giving an account of the murder of the Arch-biſhop of St Andrews, he obſerves, "Good men, although they did adore the righ-"teous judgement of God, in taking away ſuch an enemy at "ſuch a time, yet they did not approve the manner of the "taking away of his life; and many had theſe verſes in their "mouth, made by Sir David Lindſay of the Mount, on the "death of Cardinal Beaton:

"As

* Would not this remark indicate, that the time of tillage was earlier at that period, than at preſent?

" As for the Cardinal I grant
" He was the man we might well want;
" God will forgive it ſoon;
" But of a truth, the ſooth to ſay
" Although the lown be well away,
" The fact was foully done."

NUMBER

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF KILSYTH.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT RENNIE.

THIS pariſh conſiſts of two baronies, the eaſt and the weſt. The former for many ages has been called Monaebrugh. The latter Kilſyth; but till the year 1649, it belonged to the pariſh of Campſie.

Origin of the Names.—The etymology of the names is uncertain. It ſeems even dubious whether they are of Latin or Gaelic original. If the name Kilſyth be derived from the Latin, it may perhaps have been a compound of *cella*, a church, chapel, or burying ground, and *Cetæ*, a Romiſh ſaint. And it was certain that there was a chapel in that diſtrict; for though it is now raſed to the foundation, the place ſtill bears the name of Chapelgreen, being the ſite of a ſchool.

If the name be of Gaelic original, it is moſt probably derived from *cuil* a cell or burying ground, and *ſcoth*, peace. This derivation is equally plauſible as the other. For near Chapelgreen, which is almoſt in the centre of the weſt baro-

ny,

ny, there was formerly a tumulus or cairn of ſtones. That this tumulus was a burying ground or funeral pile, is certain; for an urn and aſhes were ſome time ago found in it. And there is a faint tradition, that it was erected over the dead, ſlain in a memorable battle, fought between the natives and the Romans; which was the forerunner of a *peace*. It is but juſtice to ſay, however, that the ſame tradition bears, that the natives were ſurprized unarmed, and therefore, had recourſe to the firſt offenſive weapon that offered, which was their *ſcyths* or *ſickles*. And from this circumſtance, it is ſaid, the diſtrict derived its name.

The etymology of Monaebrugh, is as uncertain. Gentlemen acquainted with the Gaelic ſuppoſe it to be a compound of *monaugh*, *hilly*, and *ebroch*, a place full of rivulets. And it muſt be acknowledged, that this is deſcriptive of the general appearance of that diſtrict. For it conſiſts of an endleſs ſucceſſion of hill and dale, from one end to the other, and it is interſected by a great variety of rills.

Others have ſuppoſed it to be of Latin original. If ſo, it is perhaps a compound of *mona*, a monk, and *Ebroch*, the name of a ſmall rivulet which runs through this diſtrict. And in confirmation of this, there is a tradition in this pariſh, that a certain ſaint, whoſe name is not recorded, had a hermitage in a ſequeſtered glen upon this very rivulet.

Situation.—The whole pariſh is ſituated in the county of Stirling. But it is the ſouthermoſt extremity of it. The form of it is an irregular oblong ſquare, running in length along the great high way, leading from Edinburgh to Glaſgow, 7 miles. The breadth is nearly one half of its length. Of courſe, it contains nearly 24 miles ſquare, or about 15000 acres. The rivers Carron on the north, and Kelvin on the ſouth, Inchwood burn on the weſt, and the Buſh burn on the eaſt,

eaſt, form the natural boundaries of the pariſh; and it lies contiguous to Denny on the eaſt, and Campſie on the weſt, to Fintry and St. Ninians on the north, and Kirkintulloch and Cumbernauld on the ſouth. I never ſaw a ſeparate map of the whole. But there is a very elegant beautiful and correct plan of the eſtate of Kilſyth, in the poſſeſſion of the proprietor. And in the map of Stirlingſhire, in Atlas Blaviana, there is a very minute and pretty accurate delineation of this pariſh.

The general appearance of the whole to a ſtranger is rather bare and bleak. A child may number the trees; but there are a few ſmall copſe woods. The eaſt barony has very much the appearance of a highland diſtrict or ſtrath. Even the weſt is very uneven in its ſurface, and much in want of planting and proper incloſures. There is not a ſtrip of planting in the pariſh. It forms altogether an extended ſtrath between two lines of hills; in ſo much, that at one point, it ſeems to be part of a great ditch, interſecting the kingdom, terminating at the Frith of Forth on the eaſt, and Clyde on the weſt; being at nearly equal diſtances from either. It ſends ſeveral ſtreams to both. For near the centre of the pariſh is the ſummit or higheſt part of the whole ſtrath, from whence iſſues the Kelvin, running weſt, and Auchencloch burn running eaſt. The Dullatur bog, through which they both run, is almoſt on a level with the water in the great canal, which cuts it into almoſt equal parts. And the canal is at that place 160 feet above the level of the Forth, at Grangemouth.

Though the ſurface of this pariſh is rough, broken, and uneven, being almoſt an uninterrupted ſucceſſion of hill and dale, yet we have no mountains of any note. The higheſt form a part of that ridge which riſes at Greenock, runs through Kilpatrick, Baldernock, Campſie, Kilſyth, and

Denny, and thus interſects the whole kingdom. To us they ſeem to riſe to a conſiderable heighth, and to form a natural ſhelter from the northern blaſt; but none of them are more than 1200 feet above the level of the valley, or 1368 above the ſea. From the ſummit of the higheſt there is one of the moſt extenſive, beautiful, and variegated views in Scotland.

The firſt thing that arreſts the attention, is the amazing extent of proſpect that opens all around. At leaſt part of 14, if not 16 counties, and perhaps one half of Scotland, is under the eye at one glance. Though not nearly ſo beautiful and variegated as that from the top of Benlomond, the view is richer, and more extenſive. For, being nearly at equal diſtances from the Atlantic and the German oceans, the whole extent of the Iſland from eaſt to weſt is viewed at once. Towards the ſouth and north, the proſpect is ſtill more extenſive. At a moderate calculation, the area of the whole may be 12000 miles.

The ſtriking contraſt between the Highlands and Lowlands is the next thing that attracts the attention. If you turn your eye ſouthward from the Frith of Forth to Clyde, and from Pentland and Galloway to the Ochils and Kilpatrick hills, the whole ſeems one extended fertile plain; or rather, like a beautiful garden ſheltered on all hands by the ſurrounding mountains, and divided into numberleſs beautiful incloſures, like the compactments of a flower garden.

Nothing can poſſibly be a more ſtriking contraſt to this, than the proſpect to the north. For 70 or 80 miles, it appears to be an endleſs ſucceſſion of hill upon hill, overtopping one another till they are loſt in the diſtance of the proſpect, and blended with the blue clouds or azure ſky. In a foggy day, or froſty morning, the proſpect is truly pictureſque. Being raiſed entirely above the fog, the whole plain to the

ſouth appears like the ſea in a calm; while the hills on the north ſeem to raiſe like iſlands out of the main, or like the tumultuous waves of the ocean in a ſtorm.

Though there is ſcarcely a peep between any of the hills to the north, yet there is an infinite variety of ſcenery of every kind to the ſouth. The friths of Forth and Clyde, with the iſlands they contain; a vaſt variety of lakes and rivers, woods and wilds, with innumerable rich corn fields and incloſures; the great canal, and villages, towns, cities, and ſhires, add beauty, variety, and grandeur to the whole.

Soil.—Where there is ſuch an uneven ſurface, there muſt of courſe be a great variety of ſoil. In general a light ſandy or gravelly bottom is moſt prevalent; excepting in the rich, beautiful, and extenſive valley weſt of the town. It conſiſts of a rich loamy fertile ſoil, from 2 to 2½ feet thick; and contains upwards of 600 acres. The weſt barony is upon the whole the richeſt; approaching often to clay: the eaſt is more gravelly. In ſome places the ſurface is almoſt entirely covered with ſmall ſtones, from the quarter of a pound to two or three pounds weight. Theſe, however, are not ſuppoſed to be injurious, but rather an advantage to the ſoil. They are ſaid to prevent the ground from heaving and caſting the ſeed in ſpring,—to ſhelter the tender blade in ſummer. They are ſuppoſed likewiſe to prevent the ſcorching rays of the ſun from withering the corns,—to retain the moiſture in great drought; and, by retaining alſo the heat all the ſummer night, to promote vegetation. Perhaps the principal advantage is generally overlooked; which is, that they throw off a kind of laminous rind or ſhell, like the coats of an onion, which, being mixed with calcareous earth, moulders down and meliorates the grounds. The ſandy ſoil which prevails here, though light and ſhallow, is generally productive; always eaſily cultivated,

and ſuſceptible of much improvement at a moderate expence. Being naturally dry, it ſuits beſt with a wet ſummer; and would almoſt require a ſhower every day.

Climate.—Of courſe, it is very well adapted to our climate, which is rather watery. As we lie along that line of hills which reaches the Atlantic on the weſt, we are expoſed to frequent heavy ſhowers from that quarter; eſpecially when the wind is weſterly, which it generally is for nine months in the year. The hills at Greenock attract the clouds that riſe from the Weſtern Ocean. And, if the wind is high, it conveys them along the whole line of hills. If there is only a gentle breeze, which veers a little to the N. W. the clouds follow the line of the Clyde, and leave that of the hills at Dumbarton or Kilpatrick. This, of courſe, is the point to which the huſbandman, in hay time and harveſt, looks with eager ſuſpence: And it is a kind of barometer which ſeldom fails. For, if the clouds leave the hills at Kilpatrick, and follow the line of the Clyde, we may reſt aſſured, that we ſhall eſcape the ſhower; but we can ſeldom eſcape, when the clouds follow the direction of the hills.

But though the climate is in a certain degree moiſt, it is far from being unhealthy. The air is in general pure and ſalubrious; perhaps more ſo than either near the eaſt or weſt coaſt. For as we lie at an equal diſtance from both, we are of courſe free from the peculiar inconveniences of either. We are ſeldom viſited with the fogs which prevail in the eaſt; and are not expoſed to the almoſt inceſſant rains, which predominate in the weſt. The fogs ſeldom riſe ſo high; and the clouds are often expended before they reach us. Hence, in ſummer and harveſt the ſky with us is often clear and ſerene; when at Greenock it is cloudy, dark, and lowring, and on the frith of Forth thick and foggy; as may be ſeen at a diſtance from our hills;

hills; and this too not for a day or two occasionally, or in a few instances, but frequently, and for considerable periods of time.

Rivers.—The rivers in this district are not very remarkable. The Carron, both for size and classic fame, claims our first attention. It is, as its name denotes, *a winding stream*; especially in as far as it is the boundary of this parish. The *bonny links of Carron water* are well known, and well deserve the appellation. For upwards of 3 English miles, that river runs, in a slow serpentine course, through one of the finest, richest, and most extensive meadows perhaps in Great Britain. I suppose it may contain near a thousand Scottish acres. In summer, during the hay-making, it presents one of the gayest and grandest scenes of the kind to be seen any where.

The next in order is the Kelvin. It takes its rise near the centre of this parish; and it runs westward through the valley, in a slow, oozing, serpentine course, upwards of four English miles within this parish. Hence, it was formerly always gorged up at every turn the river took, and overgrown with flags, rushes, and water-lillies; so that it frequently overflowed the adjacent valley, giving it the appearance of a great lake, or considerable arm of the sea. By this means, the hay in summer, and the corn in harvest, were often flooded; and all the lands that lay within water mark were greatly injured.

About three years ago, Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, who is proprietor of the lands on the north of the river for upwards of 4 miles, proposed to the heritors on the south, to have a new cut made, as wide and deep as to contain all the waters; and as nearly in a straight line as the situation of the grounds, and the course of the river, would allow. Fully sensible of the advantages of this undertaking, and eager

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to promote and encourage it, he generouſly offered to be at two thirds of the whole expence; although, in juſtice, it could only have been expected that the one half ſhould have fallen to him. Yet, at firſt, only a few of the numerous heritors on the ſouth, accepted even of theſe advantageous terms; ſo that, for the firſt ſummer after the contract was made, there was only a mile and three quarters of the new cut formed.

The advantages even of this partial improvement were ſoon experienced. The river, in place of oozing through a muddy crooked courſe, at the rate of a quarter of a mile in the hour, runs within the ſame time, with a ſteady equable and full current of two miles; and eaſily diſcharges all the water, without the leaſt danger of overflowing its banks.

Even though this had been the advantage, it would have been more than ſufficient to compenſate the proprietors for the expence of the work. But this, though a great is one of the leaſt of the advantages they now reap. Formerly the valley on both ſides, being nearly on a level with the ſurface of the river, even when there was no flood, was of courſe, gorged with water; ſo that the meadows were almoſt impaſſable for cattle at any time. Even part of the arable lands was often almoſt in the ſame ſtate; and was of conſequence unproductive, unleſs in very dry ſeaſons. At all times, the crops of hay and corn, before they could be prepared for the ſtack or the barn, were dragged from the fields to a dryer ſituation, with prodigious labour, and conſiderable expence; and what was of as much conſequence, with great loſs of time. Now it is otherwiſe, the cattle have acceſs to the meadows at all times. Even in winter, when they were formerly like one continued lake, they are now fit for paſture. And in ſummer, the hay may be made where it grows, and waggons drive along the grounds which were formerly a *moraſs*. As there is a fall of about 18 feet in the courſe of the

the whole new cut, and as it is generally four, though in many places ſix feet below the ſurface of the adjacent grounds, it ſerves as a *general drain* to the whole valley. So that every furrow which was formerly a little water ditch, and every ditch which was formerly gorged up to the brink, is, or may be eaſily drained; by this means, 300 acres of meadow may be turned into arable land; 60 acres of moſs into meadow, and 500 acres of the fineſt arable land in the pariſh, may be rendered of double value, in the courſe of a few years; and that too, at very little expence.

Theſe advantages were ſeen by all the moment the firſt part of the cut was finiſhed. So that it was an eaſy matter to procure the concurrence of all the heritors of the ſouth, for extending it nearly two miles farther, the following ſummer; and that too, upon more equal terms. Of courſe, the advantages arriſing from the work were extended in proportion.

The plan was formed, and executed under the inſpection of Mr Robert Whitworth Engineer. And like all his other undertakings in this country, gave great and general ſatisfaction. To prevent all diſputes, and if poſſible any law ſuit, two arbiters were mutually choſen by the heritors on the ſouth and north, to mark out the line of the new cut, in conſiſtency with the plan propoſed, to judge of and determine any difference, and to aſcertain the comparative value of any little parcel of ground that fell to be exchanged, or to be ſold.

The dimenſions of the cut are various, in proportion to the quantity of water it receives. For a mile at the top, where there is only a ſmall river, it is only from 18 to 20 feet wide at the ſurface, by 10 or 12 at the bottom. But as it receives new acceſſions of water, it was proportionally enlarged. So that the ſecond mile, it is 22 or 24 at the top, by

by 14 or 16 at the bottom. And the loweſt and remaining part of it, is 28 by 16 or 18. Of courſe, the whole cut is of a regular form, ſloping gradually on each ſide, and happily proportioned to the quantity of water it is meant to diſcharge.

The expence of the whole was not above L. 600 ſterling; a ſum which is indeed very inconſiderable, when compared with the advantages of the work. The ſame contractor undertook both parts of the cut, but at different prices. The firſt part he engaged to cut for 2d a cubic yard. But in that caſe, he was not bound to form the banks into a regular ſloping ridge, but only to lay down the earth regularly, at leaſt a yard diſtant from the edge of the cut. And it was underſtood, that each tenant or proprietor, would at his leiſure, and at very ſmall expence, form it into a regular bank. As this was neglected by many, it was therefore judged moſt adviſeable, to contract not only for cutting the remaining part, but for forming the banks. Of courſe, 2d½ the cubic yard was offered, and accepted: and as the whole courſe was either a fine rich ſolid mould, from two to three feet deep, or a ſtiff clay mixed with moſs, it was found to be a reaſonable allowance. The bank on either ſide is three feet from the edge of the cut, and for the moſt part upwards of three feet high. And as they ſlope equally both ways like a ridge, they may be ploughed at pleaſure, or ſown with graſs-ſeeds. If at any future period it ſhould be neceſſary, they may eaſily be raiſed a foot or two feet higher at the ſummit; leaving a water courſe, of from 30 to 40 feet wide, from bank to bank, ſo as to contain double the quantity of water. For one foot at top would nearly contain as much as four at bottom.

It may be worthy of obſervation, that as ſoon as the work was contracted for, numbers from England and Ireland, as well

well as Scotland, flocked to it. So that it was finiſhed in the courſe of a few months. The Scotch and Iriſh for the moſt part, uſed the ſpade and wheel-barrow; and by their amazing perſeverance, working from ſun riſe, till ſun ſet, they made great wages, and greatly expedited the work. But in wet weather they were much retarded. The planks became ſlippery, their ſpades and wheel-barrows were all clotted over with mud and clay, ſo as to become very cumberſome. Though they excelled the Engliſh at other times, by their perſeverance, they were in wet weather far behind. For the Engliſh ſeldom or never uſed the barrow; but only a light narrow ſpade, about 18 inches long, and 6 inches wide; and ſcooped or hollowed out in the mouth. With this they threw out wedges of earth and clay, from the deepeſt part of the cut, over their ſhoulder, with the greateſt eaſe and expedition, to the diſtance of 6 or 10 yards. This appeared to me a ſimple, ſafe, and very expeditious method; and peculiarly adapted to ſuch a work, in ſuch a ſoil.

The whole cut has now the appearance of a ſmall canal. And if the banks were planted with willows, or even one hedge row of them, they would ſoon adorn the whole plain; and become a valuable article to the proprietors.

Excepting theſe two rivers, there are none elſe in this pariſh; though there is a variety of rills, rivulets and burns. The moſt remarkable of theſe is the Garrel burn. This, as its name denotes, is a *rough, rapid, turbulent ſtream.* Its whole courſe is in this pariſh, and does not exceed 4 miles. Yet in a mile and a half, it falls nearly 1000 feet. So that there is a great number of cataracts, and water falls in its courſe. But though very romantic, and even awful in times of a great flood, yet as none of them are above 50 feet perpendicular, they are not very diſtinguiſhed.

This

This burn formerly poured all its ſtream into the Kelvin; after running cloſe by the north ſide of the town. But about 25 years ago, it was carried off by the canal company, by a ſmall canal, about a quarter of a mile above the town, into a large reſervoir about a mile to the eaſt.

The remaining burns are ſmall in compariſon with this. And they are only diſtinguiſhed by the great number and variety of water falls, and milns erected upon them.

The Inchwood burn is the boundary of this pariſh on the weſt. Next to that, is the Quinzie burn, on which there is a lint and a corn miln. On the Garrel burn, there is a fullers miln, a lint and a buffing, a meal and a barley miln.

In the eaſt barony there is Shaw-end burn; on which there is a threſhing miln near its ſource, and a lint and buffing, a barley, a corn, and a ſnuff miln farther down, and below the great reſervoir. Near the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, is Auchincloch burn; on which there is in the courſe of 60 yards, three lint milns, three buffing milns, and a corn miln; and all of them, are well ſupplied with water.

Bridges.—It is almoſt unneceſſary to ſay, that along the courſe of the great high road to Glaſgow, there are bridges acroſs all thoſe rivulets. On Inchwood-burn, at Inchwood; on Quinzie burn, at a farm houſe of that name; on Garrel burn, at the town of Kilſyth; on Shaw-end-burn, at Shaw-end; and on Auchincloch-burn, at Auchincloch. Along the ſame line of road, there is a number of ſmaller arches, thrown over the ſeveral rivulets that croſs it; which ſcarcely deſerve to be mentioned. But the bridge of Carron over that river; and of Auchinſtenie over the Kelvin, are the largeſt, and by much the moſt remarkable within the pariſh. The former conſiſts of one large and a ſmall arch. The latter of ſix ſmall arches. Of courſe its appearance is rather ſingular,

and it has ſomething of the air of antiquity about it. Perhaps it is not unlike ſome of the Roman aqueducts.

For this reaſon, ſeveral diſtinguiſhed antiquarians of rank and literature have ſuppoſed it to be a Roman bridge. As far as I could learn, they have been diſpoſed to be of this opinion, principally, becauſe it is within half a mile of the great Roman wall, preciſely at an equal diſtance from the eaſt and weſt end of it, acroſs the valley, which was the boundary of their dominions; and at the only narrow place over which a bridge could conveniently be thrown; at leaſt if that valley, as was ſuppoſed, was at that time either an extended lake or impaſſable moraſs.

Beſides theſe extrinſic circumſtances, the bridge was ſuppoſed to bear in itſelf evident marks of its being a Roman antique. It was narrow, being only about 9 feet wide; it had no edges, at leaſt, none above 4 inches high; and above all, it had a *ſemita* or foot-path, of hewn ſtone, about 10 inches wide on either ſide.

But all theſe circumſtances put together, though in the eyes of an antiquarian they may ſeem to amount nearly to demonſtration, muſt give way to ſtubborn facts.

In cutting the courſe of the Kelvin, not 20 yards below this bridge, there was found the remains of a paved ford or cauſeway, built together with wood, which was ſtill entire; a few horſes ſhoes, and pieces of iron were found in it. This revived the general ſuſpicion, that the bridge was not ſo old as was ſuppoſed; and a tradition that about 100 years ago a man and horſe periſhed in paſſing this ford. But what put the matter beyond the poſſibility of a doubt, and confirms the above tradition is, that among the late Lord Kilſyth's old papers, of which I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak afterwards, I find that his Lordſhip made application to the quarter Seſſions at Stirling, in the year 1670, for money to

erect

erect a bridge acroſs the Kelvin, at Auchinſterrie. In theſe papers the preciſe ſum is ſtated, the name of the maſon who built the bridge, is likewiſe mentioned; and there are people alive, who recollect to have ſeen a ſtone on the weſt edge of the bridge, with the above date upon it.

Lakes, &c.—There are no natural lakes in this pariſh. But the great reſervoir above mentioned, is perhaps one of the largeſt and moſt beautiful artificial ſheets of water in the kingdom. It is of an oval form, fully three quarters of a mile long, and ſomewhat leſs than half a mile in breadth; and it covers upwards of 70 acres. The country around it is rugged and uneven, and gives the whole a romantic air. A few firs are planted at the eaſt end, and in an iſland near the weſt end of the lake. They thrive very well, and add variety and beauty to the whole. The expence of this work was very inconſiderable, in compariſon of the ſurface and quantity of water it contains. It was originally an extenſive hollow, as if ſcooped out for the purpoſe, by the hand of nature. At one place only, there was a deep opening, about 100 feet wide at the bottom, and 200 yards at the top. By filling this up to the heighth of about 25 feet, the work was at once completed. And by leaving a ſluice in the centre, it can be filled or emptied at pleaſure. The whole is finiſhed in a maſterly and ingenious manner.

This lake abounds with fiſh: and, if it were not occaſionally let out in the drought of ſummer to ſupply the great canal, it would furniſh abundance of perch and trout at all times, and of the very beſt quality. The lade that runs from it, and communicates with the canal, is one of the beſt ſtreams for trouting in the pariſh: but it is only a ſtream; and therefore not to be compared with the river Carron. This, in its whole extent, from its riſe till it reaches the

Forth, is one of the fineſt rivers in Scotland. The quantity, quality, and ſize of the trout,—the endleſs variety of pools and ſtreams,—and the openneſs of its banks, all concur in rendering it the favourite retreat of the angler: In ſo much, that people of all ranks, and from a conſiderable diſtance, reſort to it in the fiſhing ſeaſon; and there is ſcarcely a peaſant or ſhepherd on its banks, who is not eager in purſuit of this amuſement, and eminent in the art. Where the river is rapid and turbulent, and of a clear channelly bottom, the fiſhes are ſmaller and whiter after being dreſſed: but in the larger and deeper pools, eſpecially as far as it is the boundary of this pariſh, where it is for the moſt part a large, deep, winding river, they are redder when dreſſed, and darker when caught, and much larger in ſize. I have ſeen them two, three, and even four pounds weight; and from 18 to 24 inches long, and full grown *.

The Kelvin, and all its tributary ſtreams, at leaſt before it was

* There is a tradition, that fiſh were much more abundant 50 or 100 years ago than now. It is even ſaid, that before the Partick miln-dam was erected over the Kelvin, ſalmon in ſpawning time came up as far as Kilſyth, and were to be found in every pool. It is certain that none have been found ſince.

The reaſons why the ſmall fiſh are leſs abundant, may be,

1ſt, That there is much more lime uſed as manure than formerly: And it is allowed that the lees of lime are deſtructive both to the fiſh and their ſpawn.

2dly, There is much more flax raiſed. Being watered in the rills and rivulets, it pollutes the ſtreams, and renders the water noxious to all, and fatal to many.

3dly, Drag-nets and pock-nets, i. e. nets in the form of a bag, are often uſed, though contrary to law: all the larger fiſh are by that means deſtroyed.

4thly, As none of the heritors reſide, fiſhing is quite a common privilege with us: It is of courſe the amuſement of every idler.

was cut and ſtreightened, furniſhed a conſiderable quantity of fine trout. The pools were numerous and large. But, being a muddy ſlow running river, it became a harbour for pikes: This voracious animal preyed upon the ſmall fiſh. But now, that the courſe of the river is open and clear, and free of pools, the trout muſt in time become more abundant; whereas the pike can find little or no harbour.

The great canal, in all likelihood, will prove a very ample ſource of ſupply for all kinds of fiſh that delight in a ſtagnant muddy water. Perch, pike, and brozes, already abound. The firſt, though numberleſs, and caught even by children with the greateſt eaſe, are as yet for the moſt part very ſmall. They ſeldom exceed 6 inches, though I have ſeen them a foot long. The pike are both abundant and fully grown: ſometimes they are from 10 to 20 lib. weight; but for the moſt part from one to four. They are generally caught by lines baited; ſeldom or never with the rod and fly: and it is only the amuſement of children to catch them, the true angler ſeldom thinks it worthy of his attention.

Springs.—There is perhaps no diſtrict where there is a greater variety and abundance of ſprings. Along the whole brow of the hills they abound; and they are equally remarkable for the quantity and quality of the water they ſend forth. There is one or two ſo copious, that during the heat of ſummer they will each fill a pipe of 3, perhaps 4 inches diameter; and the water of almoſt all of them is as pure as cryſtal. Two have been conſecrated to their tutelar ſaints, and ſtill bear their reſpective names; the one is called St. Tartan's, perhaps a contraction of St. Tallertan's; the other, which ſeems to have attracted the attention of our forefathers for many generations, is called St Mirron's. There is a third that goes by the name of Kittyfriſt well. There is no ſuperſtitions veneration

neration paid, nor any virtue aſcribed to the waters of any of them. The laſt mentioned is rather regarded as noxious; And the waters of it are ſaid to have proved fatal to the unwary traveller: But this ſeems to be a vulgar prejudice. The water appears pure and ſalubrious; but as it lies upon the hilly road to Stirling, and near the very ſummit of the hill, perhaps ſome traveller, in the fervid noon of a ſummer's day, overheated with the fatigue of climbing, may have raſhly taſted or drunk liberally of the cooling ſpring. This, at all events, muſt have been dangerous. Perhaps, at one time or another, it may have proved fatal.

There is one mineral ſpring in this pariſh, about a quarter of a mile above the town, and near the old manſion-houſe of Kilſyth. It ſeems to be a ſtrong chalybeate; and is ſaid to have been much reſorted to in former times, and deemed medicinal in certain nervous affections of the ſtomach. It is now ſo totally neglected, that it is not eaſy for a ſtranger to diſtinguiſh the place where it was. I know of no chemical analyſis having been made of the water; but, as it taſtes and ſmells ſomewhat like rotten eggs, or the ſcourings of a foul gun, as it makes ſilver black, and wood of a reddiſh yellow, I am diſpoſed to think it is impregnated with a conſiderable quantity of ſulphur.——In one of our lime quarries there are evidently ſome ſprings of a petrifying quality, but none of any note.

Minerals.—The mineralogy of the pariſh would fill a volume; and might engage the attention of the natural hiſtorian for a life time. As I do not pretend to be an adept in that ſcience, I ſhall only give a general glance at the ſubject.

The firſt article I ſhall mention, is the iron-ſtone. In both extremities, and near the centre of the pariſh, this has been found; and there are favourable appearances in a varie-

ty of other places: excepting at Banton, in the eaſt barony, it has not been wrought to any conſiderable extent; but it is upwards of 25 years ſince it was firſt wrought there by the Carron Company; and it continues to be wrought to a conſiderable extent, ſtill furniſhing generally about 5000 tons every year. The number of miners has been various, but in general from 50 to 60; and as there is ſtill a great field remaining, it may employ as many hands, and furniſh as great a quantity for many years to come. It conſiſts in general of ſeveral ſtrata, from 4 to 14 inches thick; ſeparated from each other by their ſeams of clay or dalk, and ſubdivided by perpendicular fiſſures into ſmall ſquare wedges, from ſix inches to two feet.

Theſe ſeams are principally the property of William Cadell, Eſq. of Carron-park; though ſome part of them belongs to the Carron Company.

In the weſt barony belonging to Sir Archibald Edmonſton, there is a very uncommon collection of ball iron ſtones; theſe are of a beautiful form, and exquiſite richneſs and quality. They are uniformly of one ſhape; reſembling a round flat topped loaf of bread, or an apple pudding; but they are of all ſizes from a quarter of an inch to 12 inches diameter.

When broken or cut aſunder, they exhibit within a great variety of ſquare partitions; theſe are generally filled with white ſpar, which the old foſſiliſts call ſeptaria. But I have ſeen them quite empty; and beautifully excavated like a honeycomb. Being pretty hard, they receive a fine poliſh; and they have been wrought up by marble cutters into ornaments, in-laid work, or cabinets. Some of them are truly beautiful; but their intrinſic value conſiſts in the fine quality and great quantity of iron which they contain; they are ſuppoſed to be the richeſt that have ever been found. The Car-

ron

ron Company, who buy up all the iron-stone in this parish, and in almost all this county, pay for this at the rate of 9s per ton delivered at their works, or on the banks of the great canal. But this is generally allowed to be a price very inadequate to its value, which is comparatively great. For the most part these balls are found in a deep bank of blaes. They lie in regular strata, at unequal and irregular distances. But the balls of each stratum are generally of the same size; towards the top of the bank, they are smaller, and larger below. Though the balls, when collected, are valuable, yet the quantity of blaes is so great, in comparison with the quantity of iron-stone, and the strata are at such a distance, that it never can be wrought to a great extent with much advantage. Yet, as it lies on the course of a rapid burn, and as the blaes is soft and friable, there are considerable quantities of it washed down daily, but especially at every flood; while the balls are left behind. It is in this way chiefly that they have been hitherto collected.

Immediately under the bank of blaes in which this ball iron stone is lodged, there is a very fine post of lime-stone. In some places it is only 3 or 4, but for the most part 7 or 8 feet thick. It is a conglomeration of small shells, of all sizes, from an inch diameter, till they become so small as to be invisible to the naked eye. Their form is as various as their size: but for the most part, they are long and cylindrical, and somewhat like a screw. I believe the technical name for such is orthoceratitæ. They are generally supposed to be an extraneous fossil; for the original shell has not yet been discovered in any of the frequented seas. The greatest part of these are very small; though I have seen some an inch in diameter; and 3 or 4 inches long.

At one time, I had occasion to pick up a petrifaction rather of an uncommon shape, size, and colour. It was lodged

ged in the clay above the lime; and it reſembled much an elephant's tooth, at leaſt it was of the colour of ivory, and as ſmooth. It was preciſely of the form of a large tooth or ſmall crooked horn, about an inch and a half diameter at the baſe, and tapering till it terminated in a ſharp point. The water that oozes through the fiſſures of this poſt of lime is clearly of a petrifying quality. And all theſe apertures are filled with clay and petrified ſhells. Where this poſt is thickeſt, which is at a place called Weſtſide, it has been wrought for ſome years by mining, and has been burnt in draw-kilns. As the roof is good, the poſt generally 7 or 8 feet thick, and divided into ſquare cubes by horizontal and perpendicular fiſſures, it is wrought to much advantage, at a very moderate expence. It may be wrought for ages, for the poſt ſeems inexhauſtible. And it is nearly 700 feet above the level of the valley, and muſt therefore always be level free.

As it conſiſts almoſt entirely of ſhells, it is of courſe, of the beſt quality; and contains the greateſt quantity of calcareous earth, and the leaſt proportion of ſand of any lime perhaps in Scotland. Therefore the demand for it is great, and increaſes every year. Conſiderable quantities of it have been ſent to Glaſgow, by the great canal. But the greateſt part is employed in this pariſh, and in the pariſhes of Kirkintulloch, Cumbernauld, and Cadder. Upwards of 1000 chalders have been ſold this ſummer; though the work is properly ſpeaking, in its infancy. It is ſold at ſo low a rate as 8s the chalder, or 6d per boll, and is the cheapeſt lime in this neighbourhood, though it is the beſt. The boll is equal to three firlots of corn meaſure.

Below this, about a quarter of a mile, and in the courſe of the ſame burn, there is another poſt of lime. It is of a very free grain; and of a duſky marble colour, capable of a fine poliſh. But as the poſt is thin, not exceeding 45 inches,

and is covered with a deep bank of blaes, from 10 to 30 feet thick, and without a proper roof, it can never be mined, nor even removed without conſiderable expence.

In a variety of other places, there are favourable appearances of lime; eſpecially in the eaſt barony. Near the centre of it, at a farm called Berry-hill, there are ſeveral ſtrata of lime, which have been wrought to advantage. But it is much more ſandy, and contains leſs calcareous earth; and is in every reſpect, of a coarſer quality. Yet, as there is a good roof, and, as it may at all times be wrought level free; as it conſiſts of ſeveral ſtrata, of above 6 or 8 inches thick, with interſtices of clay about the ſame thickneſs; and as it is divided into ſmall ſquare wedges by perpendicular fiſſures, it is wrought with eaſe and little expence; ſeldom or never requiring the force of powder. But the road to it is ſteep, and in bad repair; therefore the demand for it has not been great, except from the immediate neighbourhood.

I ſuppoſe however, that there may be at leaſt 1500, if not 1800 chalders annually thrown out from the three poſts put together.

Beſides theſe, which have all been turned to account, there is about a quarter of a mile above Weſt-ſide, a vein of copper, which was wrought about 60 or 70 years ago, by order of the York building company. Of this, I could not have given any diſtinct account; unleſs it had been examined by the ingenious Mr Raſpe, in the year 1791. As his report is very accurate, and now before me, I ſhall ſtate it in his own words, in the note below *.

In

* " I examined a drift, which had been driven into the ſide of the hills " near Corri, many years ago. And found in it a vein of reddiſh heavy ſpar, " or vitriolated barytes. It has been very prepoſterouſly ſhut up, with a view " as it would appear of preventing or diſcouraging any further trial. For as " the

In a variety of places, but eſpecially in the farm of Duntrocher, about a mile above the town of Kilſyth, and in the

 valley

" the drift was horizontal, it could not occaſion any danger to cattle. I had " it opened for me, juſt wide enough for me to creep in, on all fours. I " found the drift within very narrow, 8 fathoms upon the run of the vein, " which is north and ſouth. At the forehead a ſhort croſs drift appeared eaſt " and weſt, full of a ruſſy clay as it were, upon a croſs goſſan, or clay vein, " the thickneſs of which remains as yet undetermined. The heavy ſpar vein " ſeems here to be interrupted by it; though it may probably con- " tinue a good way beyond it. For it appears clearly, in the face of " the brae, many fathoms ſouth and ſouth weſt, the other way: ſo that there " is no doubt of its being a regular ſpar vein of a conſiderable length and " width. In the drift, it is about 2 feet, and in the above mentioned ſouth " or ſouth weſt end, rather more than that even at the graſs."

" Conſidering that this kind of heavy ſpar is the conſtant matrix and at- " tendant of metals of all the veins and works which I have ſeen and ex- " amined in the Ochil hills and Highlands;—that the vein is favourably " ſituated in high ground, on the very edge of the hill; that conſequently, it " may be undercut very deep by ſhort flanking levels; and chiefly, that " in ſome parts, it is thinly ſprinkled with copper ore, I think it my duty, to " recommend a ſlight trial of it, by a couple of trial pits of 3 or 4 fathoms, as " alſo by a couple of coſteening pits or trenches, upon and beyond the croſs " goſſan, or clay vein in the forehead of the old drift."

" The coſt of this trial will probably not exceed L. 25 ſterling. And the " reſult of it whatever it may be, will be ſatisfactory; whether ore be found, " or only the nature of the vein aſcertained fully, as a road for ſpirited ſpe- " culators to venture upon hereafter."

The above report is ſo accurate and important, that I truſt it will not be thought tedious. And the following clauſe, I think, merits attention.

" Higher up in the Haleſtain burn, I ſaw large maſſes of grey, and variegat- " ed, dull coloured flint; yellow and red jaſper, with nodels of agate " and porphyry. If the jaſper could be traced here to a regular body, which " is not unlikely, lapidaries might be ſupplied from hence, very cheap; or " rather, lapidary mills might be ſet up in the burn, or at Kilſyth, to great " advantage. For this jaſper is of a very fine grain; and ſome how or other " finds its way already to the lapidaries and ſeal engravers, at Edinburgh " and London."

valley alſo, there are favourable appearances of a clay marle. But as no trial has been made of it, I cannot ſpeak with certainty, either of its quantity or qualities.

About a quarter of a mile ſouth of the town, within 30 yards of Auchenſterrie bridge, and 100 of the great canal, there is a valuable and inexhauſtible quarry of baſaltes.

The whin-ſtone rock is from 20 to 30 feet high; and as there is very little ſurface upon it, it may be wrought at a ſmall expence; more eſpecially, as it is in many places interſected by horizontal and perpendicular fiſſures, whereby it is cut into blocks of all different ſizes. It is peculiarly adapted for cauſeways, or paving the ſtreets of any populous city. The ſtone is ſolid, compact, and durable; yet though extremely hard, and therefore capable of receiving a very fine poliſh, it is very free, and eaſily formed into almoſt any ſhape. The prevailing colour of it is a ſlate blue, beautifully freckled with little white nodules.

The demand for this ſtone has been conſiderable. Several thouſand tons have been annually conveyed up the great canal to Glaſgow, and the neighbourhood; and it is ſaid to be equal in quality to any ſtone that has been found. Though at the diſtance of 14 miles, as it is conveyed by water, it can be furniſhed at as cheap a rate, as if it were within 3 or 4 miles of that city.

I may add, that near the centre of this pariſh, in the Garrel glen, about half a mile above the town, there is one of the richeſt, fineſt, and moſt beautiful poſts of free-ſtone in Great

I have ſeen ſome of theſe myſelf, they are beautiful indeed. Specimens of each are in the poſſeſion of Mr Robert Wilſon at Banton, who has with much labour and ingenuity, made a beautful and pretty complete collection of the minerals and foſſils of this pariſh. It would be a happy circumſtance if there was in every pariſh a cabinet or collection of the ſame kind.

Great Britain; and happily it is inexhauſtible. The colour of it is exquiſite; for the moſt part, it is a beautiful white, with a tinge of yellow. But ſome of it is finely variegated with brown and yellow veins, like marble. Other parts of it are decorated with the moſt delicate vegetable impreſſions, as black as coal. Some of theſe are as ſmall as a hair, and when the ſtone is finely poliſhed, they are a beautiful contraſt to the reſt of the maſs. I believe no free-ſtone is capable of a finer poliſh. For though it is ſoft and eaſily wrought when firſt brought from the quarry, it becomes daily whiter and harder when expoſed to the weather. It becomes hard, white, and of a fine conſiſtence; and ſo durable, as to ſtand all weather, and ſuit every climate. Of courſe, it is equally calculated for building above or below the ſurface of the earth or water; and for the fineſt ornaments, and ſtrongeſt and coarſeſt pieces of architecture. In the erection of bridges, where it is expoſed to the conſtant attrition of the water, and in paving ſtreets, it is particularly uſeful. Of courſe, it is much eſteemed in Glaſgow, and wherever it is known. Many ſtreets in the New Town of Glaſgow are paved with it; and it has been formed into ſome of the fineſt ornaments, ſuch as vaſes, columns, and fretted work. The demand for it is great, and it is ſold at a reaſonable price. Even when delivered at Glaſgow in blocks, it is only 2s the yard for pavement; and there are upwards of 1000 tons conveyed to Glaſgow by the great canal every year *.

I am convinced if its value were known, there would be a greater demand for it than there is from many places of Scotland,

* This quarry is ſet at L. 40 ſterling annually. Each quarier is allowed 7d¾ the yard, for his work. Land carriage to the canal coſts 3 pence per yard; for lordſhip 3 pence; trackage and tonnage in the canal are trifling.

land, but eſpecially from England. For if free-ſtones are conveyed to London from the country north of Aberdeen on the eaſt coaſt, and from Stevenſton in the county of Ayr on the weſt, they certainly might be conveyed with equal advantage from Kilſyth. The great canal paſſes within leſs than a mile of this quarry; and I am perſuaded, that a load of Kilſyth free-ſtone either roughly formed or in the block, would be a valuable commodity of the kind. For if ſold in London at L. 1:12s. the ton, as free-ſtone of inferior quality is, it might furniſh a very liberal freight, or as ballaſt prove a profitable branch of trade.

The poſt is generally from 10 to 15 feet, and lies upon a ſeam of coal about as many inches thick. There are a great variety of coal ſtalks, riſing from this ſeam, like trees from the ſurface of the earth. Some of them are 6, 10, or 20 feet long in proportion to the depth of the free-ſtone; and they differ as much in diameter as in length, being of all ſizes from an inch to 2 feet. Theſe are juſtly eſteemed by philoſophers objects of great curioſity. And they have furniſhed matter for much ſpeculation; they reſemble exceedly a petrifaction: and yet the ſubſtance is not calcarious earth, but ſolid free-ſtone of ſimilar texture with the circumjacent rock. I have in my poſſeſſion, one the largeſt and moſt beautiful that has hitherto been found. It is nearly 16 inches in diameter, and 6 feet 9 inches in length, of a compact ſolid maſs. For the original ſtem when entire was upwards of 12 feet long; but the top, as is generally the caſe, was leſs ſolid, and mouldered down or was eaſily broken when expoſed to the open air. In ſhape, colour, and appearance, it preciſely reſembles the trunk of a thorn tree; in ſo much, that every ſtranger at firſt view ſuppoſes it to be one. It ſeems to be of equal ſolidity with any part of the maſs; and the ſurface of it is beautifully fretted with regular indentations much

much like the ſurface of a fir top. Beſides theſe, there are likewiſe longitudinal ſeams from end to end, reſembling the trunk of an old yew, or thorn tree. It is unneceſſary to ſay, that the circumjacent caſe bears a ſimilar impreſſion, only reverſed. But it deſerves to be mentioned, that within the ſame trunk, and at different angles, there lie a variety of ſmaller ones, from two to three inches diameter. Theſe are ſeldom parallel to one another, and cannot be extracted without deſtroying the large trunk; but when extracted, they ſhew beautiful impreſſions; finer by much than the larger trunk. Theſe ſometimes branch out into regular ramifications at top, as they almoſt always do at bottom; and the ſmaller the branch the finer and more delicate the impreſſions upon its ſurface; in ſo much, that the ſmalleſt will bear and almoſt require to be examined by the microſcope. I gave one of them lately to a gentleman, who promiſed to ſend it to Weir's muſeum.

It is unneceſſary to add, for I believe it is a common thing, that there are uniformly vegetable impreſſions along the baſe of the coal and ſurface of the dalk or blaes. Theſe are ſo endleſsly varied, that I cannot pretend, nor would it be proper to attempt an enumeration of them.

Coal.—The only article that remains to be mentioned, is the coal. This has been wrought for ages; and is ſtill abundant, I truſt inexhauſtible. The ſeams are various, and of very different quality. The coal in the weſt barony, is one of the beſt I ever ſaw. It burns clear, laſts long, gives a good heat, and cakes, ſo that the very droſs of it is valuable; and makes a better fire than moſt other coals. Happily for us this ſeam is now wrought to a conſiderable extent, and promiſes to be a laſting benefit to this pariſh and the neighbourhood. Robert Dunmore, Eſq. of Ballakinrain, is at preſent the tackſman;

and as he is a gentleman of a liberal mind, and public ſpirit, I have no doubt that he will carry on the work with ſucceſs and to a great extent. This ſame ſeam has been wrought for generations in different places of the weſt barony; but it was given up for many years, till lately the work was revived.

The coal in the eaſt barony, eſpecially at Banton and Glen Garrel, is of an inferior quality. But for that reaſon, it is uſeful for a variety of purpoſes which the other could not ſo well ſerve. It gives an uncommon heat, but upon being expoſed to the air, it moulders down into droſs. And when thrown into a chimney, it is ſo brittle, that whenever it is touched, it turns into a powder or mere gum. But in an oven, or furnace, or ſmith's forge, it is of great ſervice: and is one of the beſt coals for theſe purpoſes in the kingdom. Of courſe, there is a great demand for it from printfields, and other public works, and from ſmiths, for 6, 10, or 12 miles round.

None of thoſe coals are far below the ſurface. Of courſe, they are eaſily kept level free. In the weſt barony, the ſeam is generally from 4 to 12, and in the eaſt from 12 to 16 fathom deep. The ſtrata in Glen Garrel, where coal has been wrought for 50 years without interruption, lie generally in the following order:

1ſt, Soil and rubble.

2d, A thin bed of blaes, or ſometimes channel.

3d, A poſt of free-ſtone, from 10 to 20 feet thick.

4th, Indurated ſhivers, blaes, or ſometimes in its place a thin ſeam of coal 11 inches thick.

In the eaſt end of the pariſh, at a place called Buſh, is the richeſt and beſt ſeam of coal; but it is not level free, and therefore would require a fire engine. It has been wrought to a conſiderable extent. I find that Lord Kilſyth, ordained

ordered it to be opened in the year 1670. There are nearly 100 coal pits that have been wrought.

In general, the dip of all the coals is to the ſouth eaſt. But when it meets with what are called hitches, the dip alters in every direction. In one place at Balcaſtle, the coal was found in the form of a trough, riſing up in all directions.

The manner in which they are wrought is by pick and wedge; boys, and ſometimes girls are employed to draw the ſkiffies, below ground. The men enter about 4 in the morning, and their day's work is generally over by 2 in the afternoon.

Each load may be about 2420 cubic inches. It is ſold at $7d\frac{1}{2}$ at the hill. Four of theſe make a tolerable cart; it is ſaid, they will weigh upwards of 1200 weight.

There are generally from 8 to 12 conſtantly employed as colliers; each of theſe at an average, will put out 10 or 12 loads per day: though ſome can put out more. For each load they have 3 pence, ſo that in general, they can earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. There may be about 120 loads, that is 30 carts put out daily, or about 180 carts every week. Allowing 50 weeks in the year, there will be 9000 carts, or 36,000 loads, annually put out. This is equal to 10,300,000 hundred weight, or 871,200,000 cubic inches. At half a crown the cart, the ſale in a year may be equal to L. 1125 ſterling. But the expences attending the work are very conſiderable; ſometimes 9 or 10 men are conſtantly employed, beſides colliers: ſo that the weekly expences are generally from L 9 to L. 16.

It is to be hoped, that a great deal of this will be ſaved. For there is a ſmall ſteam engine immediately to be ſet up. This will eaſily do the work of a number of men, and ſave an enormous expence.

If ſo, it may be expected, that the prices may fall ſomewhat; at preſent the poor find them to be very high. And what is ſurpriſing, for 100 years, that is, from 1670, till 1770, the coals kept nearly at the ſame price, from 3d. to 4d. the load. Since that period, they have become too much an article of commerce. Speculation has run ſo high, that they are now double the price they were 20 years ago. It were to be wiſhed, that gentlemen would conſider this.

It is ſuppoſed that there are many ſeams below the one that has been wrought. It ſeems only the cropt coal. But as it abounds, no attempt has been made to ſearch deeper.

Vegetables.—The vegetables of this pariſh are not very remarkable. Yet our ſequeſtered glens furniſh abundance of amuſement for the botaniſt. Thoſe who are verſant in that ſcience inform me, that there are not a few of the rarer indigenous plants. Broom and furze abound in every incloſure. There are a few plants of the black berry tree. The ſloe tree is in almoſt every glen. The hawthorn, hip-thorn, the wild raſp, and elder, with all the varieties of the bramble, are frequently to be ſeen. In every glen and copſe wood, the hazel prevails. There are a few crab apples to be found, ſcattered up and down: but chiefly in the neighbourhood of the decayed and ruinous old orchards of the family of Kilſyth. Perhaps they may be the produce of ſeed dropt from thoſe gardens, or carried by wild birds. There is a variety of the willow tribe, though no great quantity any where. The birch is one of our moſt beautiful plants. The mountain aſh, and ſmall cherry tree, either in bloſſom or full bearing, are both a beautiful ornament to our glens. The largeſt trees are the aſh, the elm, the

alder, the ſycamore, and oak: but they are very thinly ſcattered.

The few fruit trees which we have are ſometimes very prolific, but the produce is always precarious. There is a great variety and very conſiderable quantities of gooſeberries, raſps, and currans. And few, if any country pariſhes can boaſt of as many flower gardens, or a more curious and complete collection of flowers.

Animals.—The animals of this pariſh are ſuch as are common over all the neighbourhood.

Foxes, badgers, polecats, weaſels, and hedgehogs, abound. A few otters and rabbits may be found alſo; and the hare is frequently to be ſeen.

The birds of prey, are in no reſpect ſingular or remarkable. The moſt common are the kite, and the hawk, and the raven-crow. The owl is alſo to be found. But the moſt deſtructive of all, is the grey *glade*, or kite, as it is commonly called. The eagle once frequented our rocks and hills, while paſtured with ſheep. But ſince black cattle have come in their place, the eagle is never ſeen. Even the foxes and ravens, on the ſame account, are not ſo numerous as heretofore. The moor fowl and wild duck, the partridge and wild pidgeon, the heron, the magpie and ſkylark, are all to be found in their ſeaſon. The ſnipe, the ſparrow, the redbreaſt and wood-pecker, the bat, the common green moor, and red breaſted or roſe linnet, the blackbird, the thruſh, the goldfinch, the chaffinch, the wren, &c. with all the varieties of ſmall birds, are common here.

In winter, wild geeſe in amazing flocks, to the number of 200 or 300 at a time, appear in the valley. The northcock

and ſnow bird, only appear in ſevere ſtorms, like that of winter 1795.

The birds of paſſage, with the uſual time of their appearance and departure, will appear from the following table.

	Appearance.	*Departure.*
The cuckow, about	25. March;	when barley begins to ſhoot.
The ſwallow,	28. April;	1. October.
The lapwing,	20. March;	26. July.
The curlew,	10. March;	10. October.
Woodcock,	21. December;	various as the ſtorm riſes.

Church, Living, Manſe and Glebe.—It is impoſſible to ſay, when there was a church firſt erected at Monaeburgh. In all likelihood, it was very ſoon after the Reformation; perhaps before it. At all events, it was before the year 1586. For at that time, Mr Alexander Livingſtone, a near relation of the family of Callendar, was parſon of this pariſh. The ſucceſſion of miniſters, and ſeveral particulars relating to the church, are inſerted in a note; which was chiefly taken from an old volume of the records of the preſbytery of Glaſgow, which was ſometime ago diſcovered at Dumblane; and has very lately been deſtroyed by an accidental fire in Glaſgow*.

Mr

* The time of Mr Livingſtone's admiſſion is not recorded; but in the year 1592 he was ſo aged and infirm, that he could neither preach, adminiſter the ſacrament nor exerciſe diſcipline, ſo that the preſbytery upon a viſitation adviſed him to get a helper. It would appear, however, that he was unwilling to take this advice. For in the year 1594 the Preſbytery applied to the Synod for a helper to Mr Livingſtone. What was the conſequence of this application we are not told. But in the year 1597 Mr Livingſtone was depoſed for *inhability in his perſon of ſpiritual graces, to teach the kirk, and for inhability to uſe diſcipline in the ſaid kirk as becomes.* In this ſentence he ſeems to have acquieſced, for he confeſſes

Mr James Robe was admitted miniſter, 24th April 1713. He had received a preſentation from the Viſcount of Kilſyth. And

confeſſes the charge. Perhaps he was the more ready to do ſo, becauſe the Preſbytery at the ſame meeting took Mr William Livingſtone his ſon on trials for the living. The reaſon aſſigned for their doing ſo, was, that he perceived himſelf to be inwardly called to the miniſtry.

Accordingly in the year 1599, having on July 3. received a preſentation from Lord Livingſtone, (I ſuppoſe the Earl of Callendar), he received inauguration, on the 17th, impoſition of hands, collation and confirmation. At this time he was a conſiderable heritor in the pariſh; being proprietor of the lands of Monaeburgh. The boundaries of that eſtate are not well known, but it is certain that the grounds upon which the village ſtands were a part of them. For Sir William Livingſtone of Kilſyth, one of the Lords of Seſſion, purchaſed them from the parſon for the expreſs purpoſe of extending the village, which ſtood at that time on the banks of the *Ebroch*. Thoſe new feus were granted along the *Garrel Burn*, which meets the Ebroch nearly oppoſite the centre of the village; and of courſe the new town was called Burnſide. The parſon ſeems to have been a man of conſiderable influence at that time, and in the year 1604 he uſed all that influence with the greateſt zeal in oppoſing the reſtoration of the biſhops. For which cauſe, and for his nonſubmiſſion to the canons and ceremonies, he was depoſed, and by his Majeſty's authority, deprived of his miniſtry both at Monaeburgh, and alſo at Lanark.

After this period there ſeems to have been a vacancy for ſome years. At laſt, in the year 1615, Mr Archibald Graham was admitted miniſter. Soon after his admiſſion he diſpoſed of a part of the glebe, though it appears that he did not pocket the money; but in all likelihood allowed it to go to repair the church. At all events, we find that he expended a conſiderable ſum in repairing the eaſter gabel, building a belfry, and purchaſing a bell. This bell was only taken down this ſummer, and had a date upon it correſponding to this, viz. 1626. All that Mr Graham required in acknowledgement of this donation, was, that his name might be cut upon the vane of the belfry, and A. G. the initials of his name ſtill remain as a memorial of his liberality. Mr Graham ſeems to have breathed much of the ſpirit of his predeceſſor. For even in the year 1636 he had not practiſed the canons and conſtitutions. And therefore he was called before the high Commiſſion Court to anſwer for his conduct. That court ſeems to have been much incenſed, for though

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And ſo tenacious was his Lordſhip of his right, that neither he nor his Lady would allow a call to be moderated in his favour.

a very favourable teſtimonial was given him by the pariſhioners, and even by the Preſbytery, he was depoſed.

The following year Mr Gabriel Cunningham was admitted. He ſeems to have been leſs ſcrupulous. Taking warning from the fate of his two immediate predeceſſors, he conformed to epiſcopacy, after the reſtoration. At the time of his admiſſion the ſtipend of Monaeburgh was only 5 chalders of victual, meal and barley 100 lb. Scots, and 16 ſtone weight of cheeſe. In the year 1665 the money ſtipend was, however, augmented to 350 merks. At the ſame time the manſe was conſiderably repaired. But principally at the parſon's own expence. This was the more remarkable, as he had paid 500 merks for it to his predeceſſor. After theſe repairs, it was valued by tradeſmen as worth 1160 merks. His glebe, after the ſale his predeceſſor had made of a part of it, conſiſted only of 7 acres or little more. In all likelihood, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not adminiſtered in this pariſh, till about this period. For it is recorded, that in the year 1665, communion table cloths, cups, and tickets, were obtained, and a baſon for baptiſm, but no flaggons, nor even a church bible. The people repeated the creed, ſaid the Lord's prayer, and ſung the doxology after the pſalms.

About this period, the village was conſiderably increaſed. A new town was built, not along the banks of the Ebroch or Garrel Burn as formerly, but on a riſing ground about 200 yards ſouth of thoſe ſtreams, which at that time was called *Moat Hill*, as the Lord of the manor had been accuſtomed to hold courts of juſtice in that place. This new town of courſe was called by the title of the proprietor, Kilſyth. And from that period the whole village obtained that name. Though the pariſh for upwards of 40 years retained ſtill the old name Monaebrugh. The village about the time that this new addition was made, or at leaſt ſoon after it, being removed at ſome diſtance from the ſmall rivers, and in all likelihood ill ſupplied with water, that precious article was brought in earthen pipes, from a neighbouring ſpring about a quarter of a mile from the town; And a well or ciſtern was made near the centre of the new town, which ſtill bears date 1676. Since that period, other ciſterns ſupplied by the ſame ſpring, have been erected in different parts of the town, eſpecially in the year 1716.

It would appear that Mr Cunningham died miniſter of this pariſh. For in the year 1666 Mr James Gaitſhore was admitted to the charge. But he did

favour. The preſbytery, being aſſured that the preſentee was acceptable to the pariſh, diſpenſed with that form, and ordained

did not continue in that office long. For he was tranſlated to Cardroſs in the year 1673.

Two years after this, Mr Walter M'Gill, the laſt epiſcopal clergyman that officiated here, was admitted miniſter, being tranſlated from Wigton. He was a man of uncommon meekneſs and moderation; and a great favourite of all ranks and denominations of people in the pariſh; inſomuch, that when it was declared vacant by the Preſbytery in the year 1690, an uproar enſued. The patron and his lady, and a great and powerful party in the pariſh eſpouſed his cauſe; and when the Preſbytery met at the church, the patron ſent down the chamberlain to refuſe them admittance, and lock up the doors. The populace even offered violence to the Preſbyterian clergyman who was to officiate. The friends of the Preſbytery were exaſperated by this; and a ſcuffle enſued, in which many were wounded, and one killed. Mr M'Gill's partizans at laſt prevailed. And the Preſbytery themſelves ſeem to have been at a loſs what ſteps next to take; inſomuch, that they deſiſted from farther procedure, and even declared that they could not take any other meaſures. They were ſoon reſcued from this dilemma. For in Feb. 1691 Mr M'Gill formally gave in his demiſſion of the charge. When the Preſbytery met at this time, they called for all the books of diſcipline, and regiſters of baptiſm. The latter were delivered up; and are on the whole regular and diſtinct from the year 1620 till that period. They are ſtill in good preſervation, as will appear from the extracts I make from them. When the clerk was ordered to deliver up the books of diſcipline, he ſaid, they were in the hands of Mr M'Gill. When he was interrogated, he ſaid, he had left them in the manſe; the beadle who had charge of the manſe, being called, ſaid, that ſome perſon or other had deſtroyed them. So that it would appear all the three were willing to have prevented them from falling into the hands of the Preſbytery. All the bills, bonds, and papers reſpecting the poors funds were nevertheleſs recovered, as well as the utenſils and veſſels belonging to the church.

A vacancy enſued for ſome time, during which period the Preſbytery viſited and ordered repairs upon the church, manſe, and offices, to the amount of £. 212 : 1 : 4 Scots.

On the 29th of Dec. 1682, Mr James Hay, the firſt preſbyterian miniſter, was tranſlated from Kilmalcomb, and admitted to this charge. During

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ordained him without a call. The principal occurrences during his incumbency, are recorded by himſelf in his own narrative, and by other contemporary writers; and it would be both unneceſſary, and improper for me to enumerate them. At the ſame time, I cannot altogether paſs in ſilence, what has been termed, the extraordinary work at Kilſyth, Cambuſlang, and ſome other pariſhes, in the year 1742; eſpecially as there were even then ſome who called themſelves Chriſtians, ſo blinded by prejudice, or by party zeal, as to affirm that it was a work of the Devil. Had they been ſatisfied with reviling the honoured inſtruments of that work, even though they did call them *limbs of Satan*, or *ambaſſadors of hell*, I ſhould have only pitied them, and been willing to bury their railing in oblivion: But they were ſo deſtitute of that charity, "which thinketh no evil, "which rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;" as to perſiſt in aſcribing to diabolical influence, the effects produced among the people. I think myſelf therefore obliged to make ſome remarks on their conduct. And therefore I cannot paſs their conduct in ſilence. If there are men of the preſent time, who can view the ſubject in the ſame light, I reply to both, in the ſpirit of meekneſs, "that a kingdom divided againſt itſelf cannot ſtand;" and that if their repreſentations have

ing his incumbency the church received conſiderable repairs. The whole roof was renewed, the north aiſle and the vault or burying ground under it, was likewiſe repaired in the year 1697. And the pariſh was aſſeſſed in the ſum of L. 1266: 13: 4 Scots for that purpoſe. Mr Hay being conſiderably advanced in years before he was admitted, ſoon became unable to officiate. Inſomuch, that on the 1ſt of July 1710, he teſtified to the ſeſſion his deſire of having an aſſiſtant. And in the ſame day Mr James Stewart was elected by unanimous conſent of the miniſter, ſeſſion, and congregation to be aſſiſtant, and that as long as he was pleaſed to continue among them. In that capacity he officiated till the death of Mr Hay in July following.

A conſiderable vacancy again enſued. So that for nearly three years the Preſbytery regularly ſupplied the charge once in the fortnight.

have been juſtified by the facts, it is certain that at leaſt, in this pariſh, "Satan was divided againſt himſelf."

Others, with more candour and charity, have conſidered the remarkable circumſtances to which I allude, as more the effect of enthuſiaſm, than of deluſion. A great part of the eſtabliſhed church, who were not eye witneſſes of what really happened, were of this opinion at the time; and it is perhaps a common opinion ſtill.

They have endeavoured to account for the unuſual agitation and religious concern which then appeared among the people, by the influence of natural cauſes alone. They have aſcribed them to the influence of paſſion, of hope, and fear, and ſympathy, and example, or to all theſe cauſes united. They have told us, that the inſtruments of that work addreſſed the paſſions of men, more than their underſtandings; that thoſe on whom the chief impreſſion was made, were almoſt all affected in the ſame way, and expreſſed themſelves in ſimilar language; that the agitation of one was communicated to the multitude, and acted like a charm on their ſympathetic feelings.

This repreſentation is plauſible, but it is only plauſible. With the candour of a Chriſtian, and the affection of a brother, I would aſk thoſe who have urged it:

1ſt, Is it poſſible to preach the goſpel in its native ſimplicity and purity, without addreſſing the hopes and the fears of mankind? Where theſe paſſions have been addreſſed, has the effect been uniformly the ſame, as at Kilſyth in 1742? The reverſe is certainly the truth, though we are all men of like paſſions with our fathers. Why are men who are addreſſed in the ſame manner, ſo much more cold, and careleſs, and lukewarm, than the people who were diſtinguiſhed at that time? And why was it that under the *ſame miniſtry and the ſame means*, the ſame effects were not produced, even in 1742,

and the following years? We can adopt no concluſion with candour or conſiſtency, but that the remarkable circumſtances of that time, are not to be aſcribed to thoſe who were the inſtruments of producing them, or to any peculiarity in the means which they employed; but to the real efficacy of the doctrines of Chriſt, and to the power of God which accompanied them.

2dly, Let it be allowed, that all were affected in the ſame way, and that they expreſſed themſelves in the ſame, or in ſimilar words; let it be granted that all ſighed, and groaned, and cried; though Mr Robe in his narrative, laſt edition, page 128, ſays, that thoſe who diſcovered ſuch appearances, were by far the feweſt in number, being not one out of ſix, of thoſe who felt this religious concern. But, may not an honeſt mind reaſonably conclude, that the ſame cauſe ſhould produce ſimilar effects; and that the ſimilarity in different perſons, indicated the operations of the ſame ſpirit in them all.

3dly, The power of ſympathy is undoubtedly great; no man denies it to be ſo, who knows any thing of the human frame. It is not improbable that its influence was conſiderable on the people of that time. But he, "who has the "hearts of all men in his hands, and who turns them as the ri-"vers of waters whitherſoever he will," "who makes the very "wrath of men to praiſe him," might or did employ, even this as the means of "turning many to righteouſneſs." But whatever energy we aſcribe to the means, let us not forget the hand which directs them to their end, or "the power "which worketh all in all!" without the agency of God, the influence of the moſt powerful means is ineffectual. Neither is he that planteth any thing, nor he that watereth, but God who giveth the increaſe. I have no doubt that there were both enthuſiaſts and hypocrites diſtinguiſhed in 1742. Mr Robe acknowledges this in his narrative, page 271. But

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I am happy to have it in my power to ſay, that there are perſons yet alive in this place who have proved by the uniform tenor of their lives, that they were not of the number, though their religious impreſſions were received at that period. By their fruits they may ſtill be known, and the effects of converſion on men's practice is the only true teſt and criterion by which we ought to judge. Whatever were the means, whether hope, or fear, or ſympathy, or example, they experienced at that period a great and important change, which has formed and decided their characters through life. And "if the ſabbath of the Lord, which was formerly deſpiſed, was "then held honourable; if the ordinances of religion, which "were formerly neglected, were then ſtrictly obſerved; if the "old and the young became fervent and frequent in family "and private prayers; if drunkenneſs and licentiouſneſs were "then diſcountenanced, curſing and ſwearing diſcontinued; "and if filthineſs and fooliſh talking, gave place to the pious "and pure effuſions of a grateful heart; if, in a word, ſtrife "and contention, wrath and malice ceaſed, and love, and "peace, and long ſuffering, and forbearance, and forgive-"neſs of one another prevailed, if the thief ſtole no more, "but made reſtitution; and a whole pariſh at once, became "decent and devout, ſober and ſerious; and that they did "ſo, is atteſted by paſtor and people *, heritors, elders, and "Magiſtrates, in 1742, and by all the wiſe and worthy men," of the congregation of Kilſyth, who were eye witneſſes to the events of that year, and are ſtill alive; call this enthuſiaſm, or call it by any other name, I pray God, that I may ever feel its influence, and bear teſtimony to its power among this people!

* See Mr Robe's narrative, p. 3d.

I pray God, that it may reach every kindred, and people, and tongue, and nation! ſay, that it is the influence of fear, or hope, or ſympathy, or example, its effects are worthy of the doctrine of ſalvation, and indicate the power which renders it effectual.

On the 21ſt March 1754, Mr John Telfer was ordained miniſter, he died on the 29th of March 1789. And on the 3d of September following, the preſent incumbent was admitted. The crown is patron; and what is perhaps remarkable, there has not been a miniſter introduced into the pariſh ſince the revolution, who has not had the unanimous concurrence of the people. The living was augmented about three years ago, and now conſiſts of 67 bolls 3 firlots of meal, 11 bolls 3 firlots of barley, L. 52: 16s. in money and 16 ſtone weight of cheeſe.

In the year 1787, the glebe alſo was augmented; ſo that it now contains in arable and paſture lands by decreet 14 ac. 2r. 15 f. beſides an acre and a half Scots meaſure, which has been poſſeſſed by the miniſter time immemorial; and is allowed to belong to the church.——The glebe is at preſent in a variety of lots, of courſe not incloſed. But an excambion will ſoon take place, by which it will be thrown into one lot, and all incloſed of courſe. The manſe was built about 8 years ago: it is a good houſe, well finiſhed, and in good repair.

School.—The pariſh ſchool was diſtinguiſhed for many years, and though it has lately been on the decline, it is to be hoped, that it will ſoon be equal to what it has ever been. At leaſt the heritors of the pariſh have contributed all in their power to make it reſpectable. They have aſſeſſed themſelves in a handſome ſum for building an elegant dwelling-houſe and ſchool for the teacher; it is nearly finiſhed. And as they have

have elected a young man of a liberal education, abilities, and character, it is to be hoped, he will meet with every encouragement and be eminently uſeful. At preſent he has two boarders, and will have accommodation for a few more. His ſalary is now increaſed to 100 lib. Scots; he receives quarterly for teaching Engliſh 2s. 2d. for writing and arithmetic 3s. for Latin, Greek, and French, 4s. 6d. Beſides he is appointed ſeſſion clerk: for which he receives annually in name of fee L. 2: 10. ſter. for each proclamation 2s. for every baptiſm 6d. and for a certificate 6d. beſides other trifles.

The town is populous, the ſchool large, and manufactures in a flouriſhing condition, and therefore it is probable that he ſhall meet with ſuitable encouragement. At the ſame time, it is much to be regretted, that men of a liberal education, who devote their time and talents to the inſtruction of the riſing generation, ſhould be ſo much neglected and meet with ſuch inadequate ſalaries.

A common tradeſman, if ſober and attentive, is much more independent, and may in general earn a better livelihood than the moſt part of pariſh ſchoolmaſters. While this continues to be the caſe, few men of abilities or character will aſpire to the office, or rather doom themſelves to the drudgery to which it requires them to ſubmit, with the aſſurance of poverty attached. If they are driven to the office by neceſſity, they muſt ſoon dwindle into inſignificance, and by becoming deſpicable in the eyes of the ignorant and worthleſs becauſe poor, muſt loſe their influence and their uſefulneſs of conſequence. But it is to be hoped, that the wiſdom of the legiſlature will ſee the impending evil, and ſpeedily interpoſe their authority to ward it off. If the ſalary of each parochial teacher were doubled, it would be only a trifle to the landed intereſt, and a mutual benefit to the teacher and the taught. Or, if this ſhould not be though adviſeable, might not every eſtabliſhed

ſchoolmaſter

ſchoolmaſter be appointed poſtmaſter if he reſides in a poſt town, or land ſurveyor for the pariſh in which he officiates; neither of theſe employments would engroſs too much of his attention. And either of them might be a handſome addition to his income. Beſides the parochial ſchool which is very properly placed in the centre of the village, there are two, ſometimes three private ſchools in it, beſides one in the centre of the eaſt, and one in that of the weſt barony.

The latter of theſe at Chapelgreen was erected in the year 1723, in conſequence of a donation of L. 60 ſter. from Mr. John Patrick merchant in London, and a native of this pariſh. That ſum according to the terms of the donation, was devoted to the purpoſe of building the ſchool and endowing the teacher with a yearly ſalary not exceeding L. 3 ſter. in order that he might be enabled to teach the poor ſcholars gratis. The ſeſſion are nominated truſtees of the fund under the inſpection of the preſbytery; and they are likewiſe patrons of the ſchool.

The ſchool in the eaſt barony is at Banton; it is generally well attended, though the encouragement to the teacher is not very great. He has a dwelling houſe; and William Cadell, Eſq. proprietor of the eſtate of Banton, has very liberally contributed to the ſupport of the teacher from year to year. There may be at an average 260 ſcholars taught annually within the bounds of the pariſh.

Poor.—The poor belonging to this pariſh, are not numerous; excepting in years of great ſcarcity, or want of employment. They are of courſe, liberally ſupplied.

The funds are raiſed chiefly from the weekly collections, though in part from occaſional donations. There is beſides this, a ſum collected annually for the uſe of the mortcloths. As our burying ground is in much requeſt by ſtrangers,

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as well as the inhabitants of the pariſh; that ſum becomes often a conſiderable and very ſeaſonable ſupply.

By act of parliament, 1597, thoſe funds are entruſted to the Kirk Seſſion; and they never can be committed to better hands. Though the management is entirely a labour of love, and a great labour too, often attended with much obloquy, and ſeldom or never rewarded even by the grateful acknowledgement of the heritors; yet, as it involves the intereſt of the poor, it is regarded by every elder as a ſacred depoſit. With diligence and diſcretion they conſider the caſe of the needy. By aſſociating with every claſs of people, they become acquainted with the real wants and diſpoſitions of the widow, the orphan, and the fatherleſs, the feeble, the aged and infirm, and ſpeedily adminiſter relief. Upwards of L. 100,000 ſter. at leaſt, is entruſted to the elders of the church of Scotland; and by them diſtributed with a degree of fidelity and public ſpirit, which reflects the higheſt honour upon their office. Yet though the landed intereſt are relieved of a burden, which they themſelves could not ſubmit to, and from a duty which men of high rank could ſcarcely diſcharge, it is ſeldom that they will allow a Seſſion houſe, or even a ſhade for collecting for the poor; or if it be granted, it is often with reluctance. And yet I ſuppoſe, that the greateſt part of them would ſooner erect ſuch a ſhade at his own expence, than ſubmit to the danger and drudgery of ſtanding a whole hour, even one ſunday of the year, in a cold bleak winter day in the open air, to collect the mite which every worſhipper offers.

That the funds of this pariſh have been collected with ſuch trouble, managed with ſuch fidelity, and diſtributed with ſuch diſcretion, as I have now hinted, will appear from the following particulars.

At

At the Revolution, the whole funds delivered over to the Seſſion, amounted only to L. 19:10. ſterling. The weekly collection at that time never exceeded 1s and 8d; yet there is now in land and heritable bonds and caſh, a fund near L. 300 ſterling, for the ſupport of the poor; and that too raiſed, not by a parſimonious hoarding up of the poor's funds, not by withholding *what was meet*, or granting the needy only a penurious pittance, but by a prudent faithful diſcharge of their duty, in collecting and diſtributing. That the Seſſion of Kilſyth, was not in uſe to deny the relief which was neceſſary; and that theſe funds have been managed with ſuch prudence and care, will appear from the following table.

	Receivings.				*Diſburſements.*		
Years.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1720 -	8	16	8	-	10	6	4
1721 -	28	8	4	-	25	6	8
1740 -	24	0	0	-	20	12	8
1747 -	32	0	0	-	31	0	0
1749 -	43	8	0	-	37	0	0
1750 -	36	0	0	-	29	10	0
1765 -	42	10	0	-	41	0	0
1770 -	57	0	0	-	37	10	0
1772 -	22	10	0	-	16	2	0
1782 -	63	0	0	-	60	0	0
1784 -	56	0	0	-	55	0	0

For the laſt ten years, the average of receivings, is annually L. 70, diſburſements, L. 65.

The table is only given as a ſpecimen. In all of thoſe years, the treaſurer gave in a diſtinct account, for the preciſe term of a year. And therefore his receivings and diſ-

burſements are clearly ſtated for that preciſe term. In the interveening periods, the account was ſometimes taken in 6, 9, or 15 months, ſo that the annual rate cannot be ſo very accurately aſcertained. But the ſame proportion between the receipt and diſburſements holds, and therefore it is unneceſſary to be more particular. But in a pariſh like this, where moſt of the heritors do not reſide, and ſome have ſeceded from the church, and where none of them interfere with the poor's funds, the above facts ought to be made known to all. Eſpecially when it is conſidered, that the above ſums have been collected literally from the poor, or from the lower orders of the people, that is, from farmers and tradeſmen, and the few reſiding heritors who attend divine ſervice in the eſtabliſhed church. Of courſe, the weekly collection has been neceſſarily ſmall, though great in proportion to the circumſtances of the inhabitants: And had it not been for the ſeceſſion, it might have been one fifth more; for in the year 1736, and after that period, when the ſeceſſion had firſt commenced, there is a great defalcation; and there was a greater ſtill, about the year 1770, when the ſociety of relief was eſtabliſhed in this place. For it cannot be concealed, though it is with ſincere regret I mention it, that when the people of that communion withdrew themſelves from the eſtabliſhed church, they ſeem to have ſhut up their bowels of compaſſion from their poor brethren; at leaſt they have witheld their hand from relieving them. But it is to be hoped, at leaſt it is devoutly to be wiſhed, that they may ſpeedily ſee it to be their duty to aſſiſt, if not altogether to ſupply the poor of their own perſuaſion, and not caſt them off when helpleſs. They will certainly loſe nothing by doing ſo, either in their character as men, or as chriſtians. On the contrary, they will have the approbation of the pious and the pure of every perſuaſion, and the bleſſing of the poor who are attached to their communion.

To the honour of all denominations of chriſtians in this pariſh, they are always ready to contribute in a *private* capacity, when the circumſtances of the poor require them to do ſo. During the inclement winter 1795, when every labourer was entirely idle, and almoſt every claſs of tradeſmen, a ſubſcription was opened for the feeble, the aged, and the infirm, and for the honeſt and induſtrious, who could not find employment, but were unwilling to come upon the pariſh. In the courſe of a few days, upwards of L. 11 were collected from the common orders of the inhabitants of every different communion; and by the concurrence of the heritors, it was raiſed at laſt above L. 30. The non-reſiding heritors not only concurred in this deſign, but have agreed to give a handſome ſum yearly, for the ſupport of the poor; an example truly laudable and worthy of imitation.

The ordinary poor which are not very numerous, are chiefly ſupported by the weekly collections at the church. But there are ſeldom above 10, and never above 15 upon the weekly liſt; theſe receive from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. monthly, each according to their ſeveral neceſſities. But by far the greateſt ſum goes to the ſupply of the occaſional poor. And that none may be overlooked, the ſeſſion meets weekly all the year round; and in winter they meet always twice, ſometimes thrice, for the purpoſe of giving more liberal ſupplies than can be afforded weekly. At Martinmaſs, New-years-day, and Candlemaſs, they diſtribute from L. 3 to L. 4 ſter. either in money or in coals, or cloaths, to all without diſtinction who ſtand in need of them. Sometimes this occaſional ſupply amounts to L. 20 ſter. in the winter; beſides what is expended in the education of ſome orphans and many poor children.

Yet our funds have hitherto been ſufficient; ſo that there has not been an aſſeſſment in this pariſh for a century paſt, excepting

excepting in the year 1740, as that was a year not only of want approaching to a famine, but of great ſickneſs and diſtreſs, the ſeſſion very judiciouſly took advantage of the act of parliament 1672. In the terms of that act, they called a meeting of the heritors, gave up a liſt of all the poor within the pariſh, and a ſtate of the funds for their ſupply: calling upon them to aſſeſs themſelves to make up the deficiency. Yet after all, the ſum exacted was only L. 5 on each 100 lib. Scots valuation, which was certainly very trifling: and little felt either by heritor or tenant, as it was equally paid by both.

The above, however, is only an account of our parochial fund. Beſides theſe, the weavers and maſons have each a friendly ſociety, and a common fund for the ſupport of their brethren. Theſe ſocieties have given conſiderable relief to multitudes; inſomuch, that without them or ſomething ſimilar to them, this pariſh muſt have been aſſeſſed long before this time to a conſiderable amount *.

* The ſociety of weavers was inſtituted in the year 1760. At that time the manufacturing buſineſs was only in its infancy. And of courſe, the operative weavers were not numerous; yet their numbers every year increaſed, and multitudes joined the ſociety, who knew nothing of the craft; ſo that there are now upwards of 350 belonging to it. Each member either pays 7s. 6d. upon admiſſion, and one ſhilling yearly; or one pound two ſhillings ſter. at once, and he is for ever exempted from any future contribution, except a voluntary one, and entitled to all the privileges of the ſociety. Theſe privileges are conſiderable: if confined to bed by ſickneſs, every member receives 3s. weekly; if only unable to work, though walking about, he receives 2s. beſides. At his death, there are L. 2 ſterling allowed his widow or family, or friends, for funeral expences. Theſe and all their other regulations, ſeem to be wiſely and well calculated to promote the common intereſt of the ſociety: eſpecially as every member has an honeſt pride in ſupporting himſelf and his family, and a great averſion to come upon the funds, unleſs when neceſſity urges him. The funds though ſmall at firſt, have by proper and

Population.—The population of this pariſh may be very accurately ſtated. For in the year 1790, an exact liſt was taken of every individual in it: at that time it contained preciſely 2450 ſouls, but the three following tables will give the moſt conciſe view of this ſubject.

and prudent management, increaſed to what is to them a conſiderable ſum. In houſes, bills, and bonds, their property may amount to upwards of L. 300 ſterling.

They meet annually upon the 1ſt Friday of Auguſt to chuſe their deacon, and other office bearers, who meet regularly every quarter, or as often as occaſion requires, to receive petitions, ſupply the poor brethren, and ſettle the private affairs of the ſociety.

The maſon lodge was inſtituted about the ſame time: they hold of the grand lodge of Edinburgh; every member at entry, pays 7s. 6d. if the ſon of a member, if a ſtranger 10s. 6d. and all pay 4d. quarterly thereafter. Their number is likewiſe on the increaſe, and may amount to about 120, their funds will of courſe be enlarged; at preſent they exceed L. 100 ſter. in houſes, bills, and bonds. They have a very convenient lodge well fitted up; they are able in ſome meaſure to contribute to the ſupport of their poor brethren: if unable to work, they allow each member 2s. 6d.; if confined to bed, he receives 3s. weekly. And a guinea is likewiſe allowed for funeral charges; ſo that when a poor man is connected with the ſociety both of maſons and weavers, which is often the caſe, he has a very liberal allowance.

The miners of this pariſh propoſe likewiſe to eſtabliſh a friendly ſociety; but it have not yet taken place, though I hope it will very ſoon.

Of all charitable inſtitutions, thoſe friendly ſocieties ſeem to be the beſt: for they are not only happily calculated to relieve the poor, but to maintain that honeſt ſpirit of independence, which is the ſure mark of an honeſt and ingenuous mind. They therefore deſerve encouragement from all ranks and denominations; but eſpecially from the landed intereſt, who have it in their power to be liberal. It would be for the intereſt of every heritor to encourage them; perhaps it is not unworthy of the legiſlature itſelf to interpoſe in their behalf. Their funds might be exempted from all duty on bills and receipts: or in caſes when they come in competition with other creditors, they might be allowed a preferable claim to all; except the crown and the landlord.

The firſt exhibits at one glance, a diſtinct view of the number of houſes, families, heads of families, widows, widowers, children, farmers, and male and female ſervants, in each diſtrict ſeparately. For I think it more conſiſtent with the object of a ſtatiſtical account, to give a detail of the proportion of inhabitants in each diſtrict apart; than merely to ſtate the number of the whole pariſh. By this means it will be an eaſy matter to ſay in any future period, whither the town or country part of the pariſh is increaſing or decreaſing: and in what proportion and denomination of inhabitants.

The ſecond table exhibits a diſtinct view of the number of children in each family of every diſtrict; that are at the time alive.

The third repreſents the number of each denomination, and of every claſs of inhabitants.

TABLE

But a part, if not a principal part of theſe funds ought to be eſtabliſhed by law, as a ſupport for the widows and children of the reſpective members of each ſociety. Or, if the funds already collected are found inſufficient for that purpoſe, why, might not each member become bound to pay a ſmall additional ſum for the purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a widows fund? A trifling ſum annually from each would ſerve the purpoſe. But perhaps the wiſeſt meaſure that could be adopted, would be to unite the friendly ſocieties into larger bodies, and the tradeſmen of the ſame craft throughout the kingdom into one ſociety. The common ſtock, if allowed to accumulate for a few years, would ſoon be ſufficient to anſwer all the purpoſes of their widows and their poor, and more effectually than the funds of ſmall and ſeparate ſocieties.

TABLE I.

Names of Districts.	Houses.	Families.	Heads of Fam.	Widows.	Widowers.	Children.	Farmers.	Men-servants.	Maid-servants.
Dundaff,	12	13	22	3	1	46	14	5	7
Auchinrivoch,	16	16	23	5	2	53	16	5	7
Cobziumboa,	23	24	44	1	0	78	15	8	11
Tomfin,	12	15	28	1	0	39	9	1	4
Auchincloch,	35	41	62	4	3	91	12	4	5
Banton,	43	45	82	3	1	114	6	6	7
Round the town,	22	23	37	3	2	63	8	7	10
Balmalloch,	17	17	31	2	0	57	14	6	9
Drumbreck,	18	18	31	0	2	53	11	5	9
Old place,	29	30	50	5	2	97	14	5	8
Quinzie,	18	18	30	3	2	65	9	8	6
North-west,			74	14	3	120	0	4	5
South-west,	104	150	35	11	4	123	0	0	1
South-east,			88	11	2	128	0	0	4
North-east,			92	9	2	117	0	0	4
New-Town,	59	96	126	7	2	213	0	4	2
Total.	408	506	902	82	28	1458	118	68	99

Quarter. — East barony. — W. barony. — Town.

TABLE II.

Families, containing each [children.	1,	2,	3,	4,	5,	6,	7,	8,	9,	10
East barony.	4	1	2	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	0
	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	1
	3	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	0
	6	6	9	4	5	1	1	0	0	0
	2	2	1	4	4	2	0	0	0	0
W. barony.	3	2	4	2	1	2	2	0	0	0
	2	2	3	4	2	3	0	0	0	0
	2	5	9	5	2	1	0	2	0	0
	3	1	4	3	2	1	2	0	0	0
Town.	4	10	7	5	4	2	2	1	0	0
	13	12	5	2	4	3	2	1	0	0
	7	11	6	6	1	5	1	1	0	0
	10	8	6	4	3	1	2	1	1	0
	9	12	16	5	5	8	3	1	1	0
	71	71	79	54	43	35	24	10	5	1

TABLE

TABLE III.

Weavers	400	Clock-maker	1
Tambourers	280	Penſioners-chelſea	4
Taylors	15	Publicans	12
Maſons	10	Labourers	24
Wrights	12	Grocers	23
Coopers	2	Coalliers	6
Carters	5	Miners	40
Flax-dreſſers	4	Exciſe-officer	1
Gardners	3	Sheriff-officers	3
Nailers	2	Stocking makers	7
Smiths	10	Bakers	2
Wheel-wrights	3	Surgeons	2
Butchers	5	Seamſtreſſes	4
Shoemakers	12	Drummer	1
Millers	5	Stampmaſter	1
Toll-keeper	1	Carriers	2
Sickle-makers	6	Teachers	5
Students	6		

Beſides the diſtinction of employment, they may be diſtinguiſhed likewiſe by their religious profeſſions, thus:

Miniſter of the Eſtabliſhment	1	Adherents to the Relief	207
Do. belonging to the Society of Relief	1	To the Seceſſion	270
		Cameronians	9
		Glaſſites	1

The remainder adhere to the Eſtabliſhed church, viz. 2000.

There may be about an hundred families or houſeholders, that have no children. And upon the whole, there are not quite 3 children alive to each family.

In

In moſt places, there are more children to a family in the country than in the towns. But upon an examination of the 2d table, it will appear that the reverſe is the fact with us: this is undoubtedly rather ſingular, but it may perhaps be eaſily accounted for. The manufacturing claſs of people, generally marry younger than farmers and labourers; becauſe they are much ſooner upon an independent footing. A weaver, the moment his apprenticeſhip is over, can earn a decent livelihood, and after ſerving as a journeyman for a ſhort time, generally marries or begins houſe-keeping. Whereas a ſervant, or even the ſon of a reſpectable farmer, unleſs he turns to ſome other profeſſion, is not ſo ſoon independent: the ſon, if his father is alive, is dependent on him, and in ſome meaſure his ſervant; and the ſervant as he changes his maſter and his reſidence often, cannot ſo conveniently marry. As this is the caſe, and as the farmers and labourers are the moſt numerous claſs in the country, as the manufacturers are in the town, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that the latter ſhould marry ſooner, and of courſe, ſhould ſooner become the fathers of families.

I ſhall not preſume to ſay poſitively, whither the population of this pariſh has been on the increaſe or decreaſe: it ſeems to have been always on the increaſe. If Dr Webſter's account be accurate, the increaſe is very conſiderable indeed, ſince the period in which he enumerated them. At that time, there were only according to his account 1346; ſo that in the courſe of 40 years, there are no leſs than 1104 ſouls added to this pariſh.

The chief cauſes of this increaſe are doubtleſs the following: 1ſt, That manufactures have been, eſpecially ſince that period, in a flouriſhing condition: 2d, That of courſe, many from the remote highlands, and ſome from almoſt every quar-

ter,

ter, have reſorted to this diſtrict: 3d, That the greateſt part of the farmers younger ſons have become tradeſmen or manufacturers: of courſe, they do not leave the pariſh, but reſort to the village; and, by marrying, ſoon add to the number of ſouls. It corroborates this opinion much, that there are upwards of 900 ſouls in the old, and 300 in the new town: whereas the country part of the pariſh is not much more populous than it was laſt century: ſo that all the increaſe of population is in the town. Indeed it is certain, that it contains 300 ſouls more than it did even 10 years ago; that is, before the new town was begun. And as the ſituation is highly advantageous—and the encouragement to new ſettlers liberal, it muſt in all likelihood continue to increaſe. Eſpecially, if a cotton miln, a bleachfield, printfield, or any public work be eſtabliſhed among us; in that caſe, the increaſe muſt be rapid, and the population doubled in a very ſhort time.

But in a ſtatiſtical account, as little as poſſible ſhould be left to conjecture. Therefore, without entering upon uncertain ground, I ſhall give as full a table of births, or rather baptiſms, as I can. And fortunately I have been enabled to collect the materials for upwards of a century.

Years.	Marriages.	Males	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1688	2	14	5	3	24	19
1689	4	5	4	1	14	9
1690	0	5	3	0	8	8
1691	9	6	9	0	24	15
1692	9	9	11	0	29	20
1693	13	26	28	2	69	54
1694	15	34	20	3	72	54
1695	24	31	11	3	69	42
1696	19	20	29	1	69	49
1697	17	24	23	1	65	47
Average	$11\frac{2}{10}$	$17\frac{4}{10}$	$14\frac{3}{10}$	$1\frac{4}{10}$		$40\frac{7}{10}$
1698	14	24	18	1	57	42
1699	19	22	22	4	67	44
1700	12	20	12	1	45	32
1701	23	30	20	1	74	50
1702	12	29	18	0	59	47
1703	14	25	27	1	67	52
1704	15	27	22	2	66	49
1705	14	16	21	1	52	37
1706	10	29	35	1	75	64
1707	13	32	21	3	69	53
Average	$14\frac{6}{10}$	$25\frac{4}{10}$	$21\frac{6}{10}$	$1\frac{5}{10}$		47
1708	14	27	18	1	60	45
1709	20	34	25	4	83	59
1710	13	25	27	5	70	52
1711	15	17	22	1	55	39
1712	14	22	19	0	55	41
1713	13	30	25	0	68	55
1714	11	23	25	1	60	48
1715	12	24	31	3	70	55
1716	9	33	25	3	70	58
1717	16	26	22	4	68	48
1718	16	35	32	4	87	67
Average	14	$27\frac{1}{10}$	$24\frac{4}{10}$	$2\frac{4}{11}$		$51\frac{6}{10}$

Years.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1719	23	25	29	3	80	54
1720	8	31	31	3	73	62
1721	17	35	23	4	79	58
1722	16	31	28	16	91	59
1723	19	35	26	17	97	61
1724	23	32	23	17	95	58
1725	10	36	33	22	101	69
1726	26	28	32	14	100	60
1727	25	33	36	8	102	69
1728	13	26	29	0	68	55
Average	18	$31\frac{2}{10}$	29	$10\frac{4}{10}$		$60\frac{5}{10}$
1729	10	32	30	3	75	62
1730	17	22	18	2	59	40
1731	26	26	31	4	87	57
1732	12	31	36	1	80	67
1733	20	30	21	1	72	51
1734	18	37	32	8	95	69
1735	13	28	21	5	67	49
1736	17	23	35	2	77	58
1737	11	37	33	2	83	70
1738	6	28	22	3	59	50
Average	15	$29\frac{4}{10}$	$27\frac{9}{10}$	$3\frac{1}{10}$		$57\frac{3}{10}$
1739	11	34	30	3	78	64
1740	10	26	26	2	54	52
1741	6	22	20	3	51	42
1742	12	28	20	2	62	48
1743	17	32	25	1	75	57
1744	14	27	23	3	67	50
1745	11	35	27	2	75	62
1746	8	27	25	1	61	52
1747	13	22	42	3	80	64
1748	17	28	24	3	72	52
Average	$11\frac{9}{10}$	$28\frac{1}{10}$	$26\frac{1}{10}$	$2\frac{3}{10}$		$54\frac{3}{10}$

Years.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1749	15	41	29	6	91	70
1750	21	24	25	0	70	49
1751	16	28	22	1	67	50
1752	17	31	19	2	69	50
1753	17	21	25	4	67	46
1754	9	32	29	0	70	61
1755	20	33	17	0	70	50
1756	14	19	27	0	60	46
1757	14	20	20	2	56	40
1758	12	27	17	0	56	44
Average	$15\frac{5}{10}$	$27\frac{2}{10}$	23	$1\frac{5}{10}$		$56\frac{6}{10}$
1759	8	26	20	0	54	46
1760	15	24	19	0	58	43
1761	21	35	24	0	80	59
1762	22	28	25	0	75	53
1763	24	34	23	0	81	57
1764	13	30	36	0	79	66
1765	13	23	27	0	63	50
1766	19	40	34	0	93	74
1767	17	23	38	0	78	61
1768	12	23	20	0	55	43
Average	$16\frac{4}{10}$	$28\frac{6}{10}$	$23\frac{6}{10}$			$55\frac{2}{10}$
1769	24	27	36	0	87	63
1770	31	28	36	0	95	64
1771	18	44	41	1	104	85
1772	19	42	46	0	107	88
1773	15	38	33	1	87	71
1774	13	32	28	1	74	60
1775	15	37	29	0	81	66
1776	10	37	27	6	80	64
1777	12	31	32	2	77	63
1778	19	28	23	2	72	51
Average	$17\frac{6}{10}$	$34\frac{4}{10}$	$33\frac{1}{10}$	$1\frac{3}{10}$		$67\frac{5}{10}$

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Pariſh.	Total.	Births.
1779	13	27	32	0	72	59
1780	0	20	23	0 0	43	43
1781	14	38	29	0 0	81	67
1782	8	37	19	0 0	64	56
1783	4	44	26	0 0	74	70
1784	3	28	21	0 0	52	49
1785	13	30	28	0 0	71	58
1786	12	29	31	0 0	72	60
1787	3	36	28	0 0	67	64
1788	7	31	38	0 0	76	69
Average	$7\frac{7}{10}$	32	$27\frac{5}{10}$			$59\frac{5}{10}$
1789	8	37	30	2	77	67
1790	11	31	34	1	77	65
1791	14	37	31	0	82	68
1792	11	45	27	1	84	72
1793	9	34	25	0	68	59
1794	9	29	24	0	62	53
Average	9	$35\frac{3}{10}$	$28\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{4}{10}$		64

The following Table, will ſhow the proportion between the males and females for 10 years, by an average.

Years.	*Males.*	*Females.*
From 1688 to 1698	17	14
—— 1698 to 1708	25	21
—— 1708 to 1718	27	24
—— 1718 to 1728	31	29
—— 1728 to 1738	29	27
—— 1738 to 1748	28	26
—— 1748 to 1758	27	23
—— 1758 to 1768	28	23
—— 1768 to 1778	34	33
—— 1778 to 1788	32	27
—— 1788 to 1794	35	28

The

The average was nearly from 28 to 26 during the above period; so that the number of males born has always been greater than the number of females.

At an average of 100 years, there are twins twice every three years: At present, there have been twins in four different families, within the course of a few months.

N. B. The following Table shows the number of children born in every month.

In the year 1754.	Marriages.	Males	Females.	Total.
January,	1	2	1	4
February,	1	2	2	5
March,	1	3	1	5
April,	1	2	6	9
May,	0	3	2	5
June,	0	6	2	8
July,	0	3	3	6
August,	0	3	3	6
September,	1	2	1	4
October,	1	3	4	8
November,	1	1	2	4
December,	2	2	2	6

In the year 1774.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	1	1	3	5
February,	2	3	2	7
March,	0	4	2	6
April,	1	1	1	3
May,	1	6	4	10
June,	2	3	2	7
July,	0	1	4	5
August,	3	0	4	7
September,	1	4	1	6
October,	0	5	1	6
November,	0	2	3	5
December,	2	2	1	5

In the year 1764.				
January,	2	2	4	8
February,	0	2	1	3
March,	1	5	5	11
April,	1	2	1	4
May,	1	1	3	5
June,	0	2	3	5
July,	0	1	2	3
August,	0	1	1	2
September,	1	4	4	9
October,	1	3	4	8
November,	5	0	3	8
December,	1	7	5	13

In the year 1784.				
January,	1	1	0	2
February,	0	0	3	3
March,	0	2	3	5
April,	0	4	3	7
May,	0	4	4	8
June,	1	1	1	3
July,	1	2	2	5
August,	0	2	0	2
September,	0	1	0	1
October,	0	1	1	2
November,	0	3	1	4
December,	0	7	3	10

I have been more particular in the above extract, becauſe I think it one of the moſt important articles in a ſtatiſtical account; and becauſe the regiſters of this pariſh have been kept with uncommon care.

Therefore, as it may be depended upon as correct, it may ſerve many uſeful purpoſes in time to come: and at preſent may furniſh a very plauſible if not a certain ſtatement of the proportional increaſe or decreaſe of the population of this pariſh during all the above periods.

A few remarks upon this ſubject, may tend to ſet it in a clearer light. It is generally ſuppoſed, that if we multiply the annual births in a pariſh by 26, the product will give the number of inhabitants. But in this pariſh at leaſt, this will not hold at preſent: and I think, I can aſſign very ſufficient reaſons for this.

1ſt, The ſtill born children, and thoſe who die before baptiſm are not regiſtrated.

2dly, Since the ſeceſſion at firſt took place, a number, if not the greater part of ſeceders, neglect to regiſtrate their children.

3dly, Since the duty was impoſed upon baptiſms, a ſtill greater number have neglected to do ſo, in order to evade the tax.

4thly, In a manufacturing village like this, there are a great many ſtrangers who come to reſide: and in proportion to the encouragement they meet with, the number muſt increaſe. For theſe or other reaſons, we muſt multiply the number of baptiſms at preſent by 38, to give the number of inhabitants: and the reaſon is, that upon an average, there are at leaſt 8, if not 10 children born annually, who for one or other of the above reaſons, are not regiſtrated.

Yet, if we multiply the births for every period by 38, I fear this rule may be fallacious. For before the ſeceſſion took place, and manufactures were introduced into this pariſh, or a duty impoſed on the pariſh regiſter, the record was unqueſtionably more complete.

I ſhall therefore endeavour to make an allowance for this in the following calculation.

For the firſt 10 years after the Revolution, the average of births annually, was about 40.

Multiply this N°.	40 by 30	the N°. of inhabts. 1200
For the ſecond 10 years	47 by 30	- - - 1410
For the third	51 by 30	- - 1530
For the fourth	60 by 30	- 1800
For the fifth leſs *	57 by 35	- - 1995
For the ſixth leſs	54 by 35	- 1890
For the ſeventh	56 by 35	- 1960
For the eighth	55 by 35	- - 1925
For the ninth †	67 by 36	- 2412
For the tenth	59 by 38	2242
For the laſt 6 years	64 by 38	- 2432

Here it will appear, that I have made an allowance for ſtill born and unbaptiſed infants, even at the earlieſt period. In place of 26, I have taken 30, allowing 4 annually. After the ſeceſſion, I have allowed 5 more annually, which I think may be a reaſonable allowance for thoſe of that perſuaſion, who neglected to regiſtrate their children. After the relief ſociety was eſtabliſhed here, a few more would neglect to do ſo: eſpecially conſidering the duty on baptiſms; therefore, I have from that period allowed 3 more.

After much minute inveſtigation, I ſuppoſe the above may give a pretty accurate idea of the progreſſive increaſe of population.

Mr Robe mentions in his narrative, that there were in the year 1742, 200 communicants in this pariſh. At preſent there are no leſs than 515 in full communion with the church.

Table

* After the ſeceſſion.

† After the relief ſociety was eſtabliſhed here.

TABLE I.

Showing the number of deaths in every month, for ten years.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1 90	1791	1792	1793	1794	Total.
January,	1	1	4	5	3	3	4	27	11	7	66
February,	3	2	3	4	7	2	7	15	6	4	53
March,	4	5	12	11	0	1	1	12	8	7	61
April,	8	6	8	3	4	5	4	8	6	4	56
May,	2	6	10	7	1	6	3	4	4	5	48
June,	6	7	6	4	3	2	3	1	4	6	42
July,	1	6	2	2	6	6	2	3	1	4	35
August,	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	20
September,	1	3	2	3	0	6	7	2	1	4	29
October,	3	4	1	2	2	4	9	2	5	4	36
November,	6	11	5	2	5	3	5	0	2	8	47
December,	4	2	7	4	2	5	12	3	2	0	4
Total.	41	56	63	48	34	45	59	79	52	53	

TABLE II.

Showing the number of adults, male or female, old or young, in the above period.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	Total.
Old men,	5	12	6	7	10	4	10	8	5	8	75 *
Old women,	5	5	13	6	10	8	8	10	13	9	87 *
Young men,	3	3	4	4	2	3	4	2	9	4	38 †
Y women,	7	7	4	5	4	2	2	6	7	6	50 †
Children.	10	18	30	16	4	21	18	53	0	10	190 ‡

* From 60 to 90.

† From 15 to 30.

‡ From 1 to 10.

The following may ſerve as a bill of mortality for the above period, as the diſeaſes are diſtinctly marked out.

TABLE III.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794
Small pox,	9	19	15	8		1	6	30		3
Innoculate do.			2					1		
Old age,	7	16	16	10	14	9	12	20	15	9
Meaſles,						1		2	1	
Conſumption,	4	3	6	4	3		5	3	2	6
Cancer,			1				2		1	1
Bowels,				1	1	4	2	2		5
Croup,				2		11	3	5		
Flux,				1	1		3	5		
Fever,				2	3		2	3	12	6
Throat,								1	1	
Accident,		1	2			2	1		2	1
Child-bed,	1				1				1	
Teething,										1
Water in the head,										3
Epilepſy,										1
In drink,									1	
Hooping cough,			5				2	4		
Suddenly,				2		2	1			
Jaundice,						1			1	
Bleeding at the noſe,							2			
Unknown,	9	6	10	8	7	5	2		6	3
Total.	30	45	57	38	30	36	43	76	43	39
From other pariſhes.	11	11	6	10	4	9	16	6	9	14

The following remarks will in ſome meaſure explain the above tables, and they are neceſſary to prevent miſtakes.

Although the firſt table is an accurate ſtatement of the numbers enrolled in the mortcloth keeper's books, yet there are a few annually die, who are not enrolled. All who are ſtill born, and even a few infants have not the uſe of the mortcloth; but to counterbalance this on the other hand, ſuch children as are ſtill born or not baptiſed, are not included in the foregoing regiſter of baptiſms.

From the firſt of theſe tables, ſuppoſing them to be accurate, it will appear, that on an average of 10 years, about 51 die annually: and that January, February, March, April, and May, are the moſt fatal months; next to them is June, November, and December; and on the other hand, July, Auguſt, and September, are in general the moſt healthy months.

From the ſecond table, it will appear, that in the ſame period. two thirds of the mortality bill conſiſts of children: and two thirds of the remainder of old men and women: and that there is a very ſmall proportion of young men and young women that die, that is between the age of 15 and 30.

From the third table, it will appear, that the ſmall pox are by much the moſt fatal of all the diſeaſes to which we are liable. When this diſeaſe prevails, the mortality bill riſes for that year, and *vice verſa*.

Heritors, &c.—The heritors of this pariſh are not very numerous, and few of them have property in it to a great extent. Sir Archibald Edmonſtone, of Duntreath, Bart. is proprietor of five ſixths of the pariſh, and ſuperior of the whole, except a valuation of L. 80 Scots. He is alſo titular of the tiends.

The following liſt of the heritors and their reſpective valuations, as it is extracted from the ceſs books, will give a pretty accurate idea of the proportion of landed property, which belongs to each. Though I ſhall not preſume to point out their reſpective rentals, as that would be extremely indelicate and improper. I ſhall only give the ſuppoſed rental in *cumulo*.

Heritors Names.	*Valuation.* L.	s.	d.
Sir Archibald Edmonſtone -	3108	10	0
William Cadell, Eſq. Banton -	281	15	10
Carron Company -	120	15	10
His Grace the Duke of Montroſe -	80	10	7
The Town of Kilſyth feuers -	75	0	0
Mr P. Marſhall, Townhead - -	75	0	0
Mr D Patrick, of Weſter Auchincloch -	40	5	3
Mr John Miller, of ditto.	35	4	9
Mr A. Laing, of Ruchhill -	30	0	0
Mr William Ranken, of Bogſide -	24	3	3
Mr J. Bow, of Auchinruoch -	20	0	0
Mr John Graham, of Auchincloch -	14	1	4
Mr Young, of Brockyſide -	7	10	0
Mr P. Bow, of Auchinclock - -	4	0	6
Scots L.	3916	17	9
Suppoſed rental ſter. L.	2950	0	0

Beſides cot-houſes, feus, &c. which may be 150 more. The firſt four are non-reſiding heritors. All the reſt reſide, except Mr Young. And the greateſt part of them farm their own

own property; ſo that there is no fixed rent put upon it.

Farmers.—The farmers in this diſtrict are in general a ſober, virtuous, and reſpectable claſs of men: they are equally free from the licentiouſneſs of the proud and wealthy, and from the growling and diſcontented temper of the leſs ſober and leſs induſtrious poor. It muſt be acknowledged, however, that they do not in general much excel their neighbours in the art of farming: like the tenants of moſt of the forfeited eſtates in Scotland, they are perhaps rather indolent, becauſe they are independent; and they make but few ſpirited exertions, becauſe their rents are ſmall and their leaſes long. Perhaps the principal cauſe why they are behind in ſome improvements, is, that their farms are in general very injudiciouſly laid out. They conſiſt of a long narrow ſtrip, beginning in the valley and riſing to the ſummit of the hill; ſometimes one, two, or three miles long, and not a quarter of a mile broad. At the time when the leaſes were granted, that is, about the beginning of this century, this might be attended with many conveniences. The great object at that time for every farmer, was to have every thing he needed within his own farm: and by this diviſion, he had his proportion of moſs, and meadow, paſture, and arable ground. Whereas, had the farms been regularly laid out, this could not have been the caſe. This, however, is now a great bar to improvement. For the rich low grounds in the valley and its vicinity, by being interſected, and every farm by being intermixed with another in this irregular manner, cannot be incloſed to advantage; of courſe, cannot be improved, from circumſtances which are rather the misfortune than the fault of the tenants. For unleſs a general excambion were taking place, and every farm were new modelled, which is next to impoſſible,

ble, while the preſent leaſes laſt, the valley muſt lie open, and unincloſed; and, therefore, continue to be poached all the winter: for this cauſe it is, that the worſt, that is the high lying cold ground, which is allotted for paſture, is all incloſed: while the low, warm, rich valley, lies open; a circumſtance this, which is ſurely very uncommon in the preſent period.

It is chiefly owing to this circumſtance, that every farmer is in ſome meaſure a grazier, though there are but few who follow that line to any great extent; at the ſame time, it is much more attended to, than it was 40 or 50 years ago. Before the rebellion 1745, a great proportion, perhaps one tenth of the arable part of the pariſh, was cultivated. From the valley to the very brow of the hills, upwards of 800 feet above the level of the ſea, almoſt every incloſure was ploughed in regular rotation. Whereas now, it is very uncommon to ſee one acre in 20 of thoſe high grounds cultivated. The reaſon is obvious, and every one who looks at the grounds muſt ſee it. The fields are ſteep, and of courſe, very expenſive in the culture: every plough requires 4, in ſome places would require 6 horſes, and never leſs than two men. After all this labour and expence, the produce muſt be ſcanty, and the harveſt late; in ſome caſes ſo late, as to endanger the crop, if not ruin it altogether. Beſides, as lime is at a conſiderable diſtance, and the roads bad, and as dung cannot be conveyed from the valley, where the farm houſes in general now ſtand, there is little probability of improving them to much advantage. For the expence of ſeed, labour, and manure, it is feared, would exceed the produce; the high wages of men ſervants, the advanced price of horſes, and of every utenſil that is neceſſary, and the amazing expence of carrying manure in ſufficient quantities to thoſe high fields, are circumſtances ſufficient to diſcourage the farmer from

from making the attempt, or at leaſt to account for his unwillingneſs to hazard it. But let it not be ſuppoſed that the high fields are uſeleſs, or of little value: on the contrary, they are rich and productive to the farmers; they are perhaps more productive than a great part of the ploughed land. They yield great abundance of the richeſt and earlieſt paſture in the weſt of Scotland; and being of a ſouth expoſure and uneven ſurface, they afford every variety of ſoil and ſhelter, either for ſummer or winter. The beautiful green hills, are covered with the ſweeteſt paſture; the valleys, or rather interveening marſhes, which are likewiſe numerous, produce abundance of coarſe hay: and every little hill or incloſure, has its little rivulet. The demand for fat cattle has increaſed, and ſeems to be increaſing, and the high grounds have for many years been entirely employed to feed cattle. It is generally allowed, that there is no ſtrath in the weſt of Scotland more favourable for the purpoſe than the ſtrath which lies weſtward from Kilſyth, through Campſie, and Strathblain *.

Horſes,

* The graziers in this pariſh are an active induſtrious and reſpectable claſs of farmers: they ſeem to know their buſineſs well; and puſh it with conſiderable ſpirit. If they are liable to any errors, it may perhaps be the following:

1ſt, That they rather overſtock their grounds, ſo that the cattle have not ſufficient choice of the beſt paſture: and beſides the coarſe hay is thus greatly injured.

2d, In purchaſing their cattle, they are not always at due pains to pick the beſt out of the flock; whereas, if they were to exclude all the ſhots, it would be ultimately for their intereſt, though the cattle were dearer in the mean time.

3dly, They run too much upon highland cattle: doubtleſs, they take on the beef faſt, and feed very quickly, and when fed, are ſweeter than larger cattle. But, perhaps, it would be the intereſt of the grazier, to buy up large

Horſes, Sheep, &c.—From the circumſtances which have been mentioned, the number of plough horſes muſt be greatly diminiſhed, more eſpecially as the two horſe plough upon Small's conſtruction, is generally uſed in the low grounds. The number of milk cows, but eſpecially of fat cattle, muſt be in proportion increaſed; how much I cannot ſay. The following table, however, will exhibit a correct view of the whole live ſtock of the pariſh, and its ſuppoſed value, eſtimated by a proper judge.

		Suppoſed value on average.			Total.		
		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
N°. of Sheep	1000	0	10	6	525	0	0
Horſes	290	12	0	0	3480	0	0
Milk cows	750	4	10	0	3375	0	0
Fattened do.	720	4	10	0	3240	0	0
				Total L.	10620	0	0

But beſides the above, there is a great number of young cattle and horſes, and likewiſe a few ſwine, which will at leaſt raiſe the general value of the ſtock to L. 11000 ſter. A milk cow yields from 8 to 12 pints of milk daily.

Produce,

large country cows for the richeſt of his paſture; and reſerve the hilly grounds for the highland cattle.

Theſe things, however, are more attended to now than heretofore.

The profits are of courſe greater. Each cow for ſummer graſs meal, is allowed to yield from 20s. to 30s. at an average: when fed both in winter and ſummer, each yields from 35s. to 45s.

But in this account, I make no allowance for the loſs of cattle, &c. &c. which is ſometimes conſiderable.

Produce, &c.—The produce of the arable lands conſiſts principally in oats, though partly in barley, potatoes, beans, rye graſs, and hay. It is difficult to ſay, what proportion of acres there may be in each kind; there are not 2 acres in fallow, nor 3 in wheat and turnip, in the whole pariſh. But the following will be found to be a general eſtimate of the produce.

	Acres.	Aver. N°. of bolls p. acre.	Higheſt produce, bolls.	N° bolls.	Price per boll. L.	s.	d.	Total value. L.	s.	d.
Oats,	1600	5	10	8000	0	15	0	6000	0	0
Barley,	100	8	10	800	1	0	0	800	0	0
Potatoes,	200	80	120	16000	0	4	0	3200	0	0
Hay,	180	160	250	28800	0	0	4	480	0	0
				ſtone.						
Suppoſed produce of the pariſh								L. 10480	0	0

Our oats yield from 12 to 16 pecks of meal in the boll. And it is univerſally underſtood, that a warm ſummer makes the crop yield well, and *vice verſa*, though the fodder be plenty.

The table is not taken from an accurate meaſurement: but the produce per acre may be depended on. It is but ſeldom that the average riſes above it, though in ſome fields it is equal to the laſt column.

Rye is ſeldom ſown, at leaſt in any quantity. I have never ſeen above an acre in one field: but the little that is raiſed, is uncommonly good. Wheat has been attempted, but we have not acquired the art of cultivating that precious grain to advantage: though our rich valley is peculiarly adapted to the

purpoſe, yet as it is not incloſed or ſubdivided, it cannot be ſown with wheat to any advantage: for the winter poaching would ruin the crop. Much of the riſing ground, if incloſed, ſummer fallowed, and properly manured, might likewiſe produce abundant crops of wheat. Flax is raiſed in ſmall quantities, but chiefly for private uſe, and ſeldom for ſale: and the quality of it is at all times more remarkable than the quantity. It is generally allowed to be of the fineſt grain and colour, of any in Stirlingſhire *. Rye graſs and clover have been introduced about 10 years; and as they have turned out to great advantage, they are much run upon, at leaſt by all who have proper incloſures for the purpoſe: though they are ſometimes ſown even for paſture in open fields.

But potatoes are the favourite produce of this pariſh, and it has been juſtly and long famous on this account:—I ſay juſtly and long; for it not only gave birth to the gentleman who firſt introduced the culture of potatoes into the fields, by dibbling and hand-hoeing, but it was the ſcene of his earlieſt experiments: and, if the name of any man deſerves to be handed down to ſucceeding ages, with honour and gratitude, it is that of *Robert Graham, Eſq; of Tamrawer*. He, with a ſpirit truly patriotic, and a mind active and indefatigable, ſet vigorouſly to work in the cultivation of potatoes in the year 1739. Before that period, he and others had raiſed them in gardens: but there was a vulgar and a common prejudice,

* This laſt ſeaſon, I knew 20 ſtone weight of flax raiſed from 4 pecks, and ſold at 14s. the ſtone: as eight pecks are allowed to ſow an acre, this was a produce equal to L. 28 ſter. per acre. Beſides that, 18 pecks of ſeed were ſaved off the above half acre, and ſold at half price.

It was conſidered as a remarkably good, though not an uncommon crop.

prejudice, that they could be raiſed no where elſe to advantage. Mr Graham, to ſhow the abſurdity of this opinion, planted about half an acre of ground in the croft of Neilſtone, where he then reſided. This excited the attention of the neighbourhood, and the report of it was ſoon ſpread far and wide: inſomuch, that people of all denominations, and ſome noblemen of the higheſt rank, (among whom was the unfortunate Earl of Perth), came to witneſs the plantation. And had they known the amazing benefit that was to accrue to the nation, from this fortunate attempt, they would have doubtleſs hailed the auſpicious event, and erected a monument to Mr Graham on the ſpot. Regardleſs of the ignorant ridicule to which his firſt experiments expoſed him, he proſecuted his favourite purſuit, with increaſing ardour and ſucceſs: and by his perſevering induſtry, and uncommonly happy talent for proſecuting every ſpecies of improvement, he raiſed the cultivation of potatoes in the neighbourhood of Kilſyth, to a pitch ſcarcely yet, if at all ſurpaſſed any where; and to promote the ſame ſpirit, and ſpread the bleſſing far and wide, he rented lands in the vicinity of Renfrew, and Perth, Dundee, and Glaſgow, Leith, and Edinburgh; and for many years obtained the premium for cultivating potatoes, till at laſt no competitor was found; all were compelled to yield the palm to him.

This will not perhaps appear ſo ſurpriſing, if the following facts are attended to.

After an endleſs variety of experiments, which he very properly recorded, but the record of which is unfortunately loſt, he, in the year 1762, planted one peck of potatoes with the dibble, and in October following, raiſed from the ſame peck, 16 bolls and $\frac{1}{4}$ boll, or 264 pecks.

As this may appear ſurpriſing, if not incredible to ſome,

I am exceedingly happy to have it in my power to eſtabliſh the fact upon the moſt unequivocal evidence. The gentlemen who were called to witneſs the planting and raiſing of the potatoes, very properly publiſhed an account of the whole operation in the Newſpaper of the day, for the benefit of the public. And happily the original atteſtation is now in my hands.

A copy of it will ſurely be acceptable, and deemed ſtrictly ſtatiſtical; more eſpecially, as it points out the manner in which the operation was carried on, and the very high ſtate of improvement to which Mr Graham had arrived.

" We John Marſhall of Townhead, Henry Mar-
" ſhall of Ruck-hill, and Alexander Maxwell preſent
" bailie of Kilſyth, went at the deſire of Robert
" Graham of Tamrawer, and attended his ſervants upon
" the 21ſt of April 1762.

" We ſaw them meaſure an exact peck of potatoes,
" which we ſaw them plant with the dibble and draper.
" Each ſet was diſtant 18 and 21 inches length-ways
" of the ploughed ridge, and between 12 and 15 inches
" acroſs the ridge.

" And upon the 26th of October following, we
" did alſo attend Mr Graham's ſervants, while raiſing
" the produce of the ſaid peck of potatoes, which we
" then ſaw meaſured on the ground, amounting to 16
" bolls and a half, which is 264 pecks, ariſing from
" the ſaid one peck. The truth of all which is atteſted
" by us, and

" Signed JOHN MARSHALL,
" HENRY MARSHALL,
" ALEXANDER MAXWELL."

If

If the man who makes a ſingle pile of graſs or corn to grow, where there was none before, in the eyes of Dean Swift, deſerved more of his country than all the politicians that ever lived, we leave it to the learned to weave a laurel crown for Mr Graham.

The method in which his operations were carried on, were ingenious and ſingular, and might have been deſcribed.

There is no branch of huſbandry more attended to, nor proſecuted with more ingenuity and ſucceſs by all claſſes, than the cultivation of potatoes. Every year there is ſome real, or imaginary improvement introduced; and it is eagerly adopted and proſecuted with much care and perſeverance. I have known many try 8 or 10 ſpecies of ſeed in one ſeaſon. This ſpirit they partly have imbibed from Mr Graham; but the ſucceſs is principally owing to local circumſtances. The ſoil is not only highly favourable, but every feuer has, and almoſt every inhabitant lays his account with taking, a ſmall lot of ground, for the expreſs purpoſe of raiſing potatoes. They have beſides time and inclination to beſtow great care, and attention, in planting, weeding, and dreſſing them. And their endeavours are generally crowned with ſucceſs*.

Our

* The following ſeems to be the reſult of endleſs experiments.

1ſt, That the kidney potatoe is the beſt ſeed, moſt productive, and pleaſant to the taſte at the ſame time.

2dly, That ground which has never been broken up before, or at leaſt, never produced potatoes, is by much the moſt productive; though not better manured than other ground.

3dly, That potatoes ought to be planted each ſet at the diſtance of 1 foot 6 inches, from each other; at leaſt in the ridge, even when they are not drilled.

N. B. It is univerſally agreed, that potatoes when frequently repeated, or even oftener than once in 7 years on the ſame ground, are a very ſcourging crop; if once in two years, they ſpeedily reduce the ſoil to a *caput mortuum*.

4thly, That

Our ſeed time is rather late in general. In the laſt week of March, or firſt of April, the oats are for the moſt part ſown; though ſometimes ſown conſiderably later. Potatoes are planted,

4thly, That each plant ſhould be carefully boxed up with the hoe, if not drilled, or otherwiſe with the plough; as in that caſe, it becomes greatly more productive. For every time the earth is thrown up, the plant ſtrikes out new fibres: and a ſucceſſion of crop may thus be obtained. The loweſt tire may be ripe and ready for eating, while the higheſt are ſcarcely formed. But where this is attempted, as it was often by Mr Graham, the plants ought to be 3 feet diſtant from each other, in all directions.

5thly, It is allowed that if the ground be lea or graſs, the dung ought in that caſe, to be ſpread in harveſt preceding; or at leaſt, early in the ſpring; that it may in ſome meaſure be incorporated with the ſoil; before it be ploughed. Even in ſtubble it is deemed advantageous.

6thly, It is generally allowed that lime is very unfavourable for the cultivation of potatoes. It is even ſaid, that the bad effects of it are experienced for 10 or 20 years. One of theſe is, that the crop of potatoes though large, is almoſt always ſcabbed or foul.

7thly, The ſeed is generally cut in pretty large ſets, and kept a week or two if poſſible, before it be ſet. This is ſaid to be a great advantage, particularly in wet grounds. It is ſaid to make the potatoe ſpring ſooner, and to prevent the ſeed from rotting. For being ſhrivelled and dryed, and covered with a kind of tough rind, it is more capable of reſiſting the moiſture, and at the ſame time, has an equal tendency to vegetate quickly.

8thly, A moſt productive crop may be raiſed of early potatoes, before the middle of July. And either turnips, greens, or graſs-ſeeds, may be raiſed as a ſecond crop. Yet the potatoes may yield of clear profit per acre, from L. 10 to 12.

9thly, In gardens and ſmall plots, the ſtocks of greens and cabbage, are one of the beſt manures for potatoes. If dug in drills, and the ſtocks be laid in regularly, they both enrich the ground, and keep the ſoil open; and thereby give room for the ſhoots to ſpread.

Laſtly, Great crops have been raiſed out of the young ſhoots, in place of ſets.

planted, and the barley ſown in the laſt week of April, and firſt of May.

The old people make a general remark, that the ſpring is much later, and the ſummers a great deal colder, than they were 40 or 50 years ago. Of courſe, that the harveſt is not only later, but much more precarious.

One remarkable ſummer is mentioned about 40 years ago, in which the heat was ſo great at ſeed time, that the labourer could not endure it at noon. So that it was a common thing to ſleep the greateſt part of the day, and labour in the night. From barley ſeed-time, till barley harveſt, there was not a ſhower, but copious dews; yet the crop was the moſt productive of any ſince that period; though the ſtraw was ſhort, and the ſheaves few, and ſcarcely a ſtack to be ſeen in a barn-yard, the barns containing almoſt all the grain and fodder.

Price of Proviſions.—As to the price of proviſions, it is generally low. Beef, mutton and veal, are at leaſt a penny per pound lower than in Glaſgow; ſometimes even two pence; lamb and butter always two pence. Eggs and poultry of all kinds are lower in proportion; ſo that it is needleſs to be more particular. It will doubtleſs ſerve the purpoſe of a ſtatiſtical account better, to point out the comparative value of as many articles as poſſible, at different periods. And as I had occaſion to conſult an old memorandum book, belonging to Mr Cornwall of Banton, who was chamberlain to Lord Kilſyth in the year 1670, I find the preciſe price of the following articles, ſtated at that period; and in another manuſcript of a private gentleman belonging to this pariſh, I find the ſame articles rated in the year 1745. I ſhall therefore ſtate the account.

Prices

Prices in the year 1670,		In 1745,		In 1795,
	L. s. d.	*L. s. d.*		*L. s. d.*
A boll of ſeed corn,	0 7 0	0 10 0		0 18 0
—— of barley,	0 8 0	0 11 8		1 12 0
—— of oat meal,	0 10 0	0 8 4		0 18 0
—— of lime *,	0 0 6	0 0 6		0 0 6
A pound of butter,	0 0 4	0 0 3		0 0 9
A load of coals,	0 0 2	0 0 3		0 0 7½
A leg of mutton,	0 1 1	0 1 0	average	0 2 6
A pair of ſhoes to his Lordſhip,	0 1 8	0 2 6		0 7 6
Do. to his ſervant,	0 1 6	0 2 4		0 6 6
A ſcore lean highland cows, each	0 13 4	1 18 0		3 12 0
A cows hide,	0 2 6	0 3 6	average	0 18 0

There are beſides the above, a number of articles rated in Mr Cornwall's memorandum, but not in year 1745. A table of theſe may be acceptable.

Rate of articles in 1676,	and in 1795					
			L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L. s. d.*
A pound of tobacco,			0	1	6	0 0 0
powder,	-		0	0	8	0 2 2
ſhot,	-		0	0	3	0 0 4
A pint of wine, I ſuppoſe Scottiſh,			0	1	6	0 6 0
A barrel of herring,	-		0	16	8	1 7 0
A ſtone ſalt butter,			0	5	8	0 13 0
A pair worſted ſtockings to my Lord,			0	2	2	0 6 6
of gloves to do.			0	1	4	0 3 0

A

* The meaſure was much larger than at preſent, each boll being a horſe load.

A yard of linnen for ſhirts to my Lord,	0	0	10	0	3	6
Making 6 ſhirts to do.	0	1	0	0	6	6
A ſtone of lint,	0	10	0	0	14	0
To dreſſing a ſuit of cloaths, and making ſtockings to my Lord,	0	1	8	0	0	0

The following rate of wages and annual fees, &c. is mentioned alſo, in the ſame period.

	L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
His Lordſhip's groom's fee,	5	8	0	18	0	0
A thicker a day with meat, -	0	0	5	0	1	8
A dyke builder do. -	0	0	6	0	1	8
A coallier do.	0	0	10	0	3	6
A labourer do.	0	0	6	0	1	6
A tradeſman do.	0	0	8	0	2	0
A leg of beef	0	5	0	1	0	0
A cow's tongue,	0	0	4	0	1	0
A horſes hay and corn all night in Glaſg.	0	0	9	0	1	8
To one horſe ſhoe and 3 removes,	0	0	7	0	1	3

In the following articles the compariſon cannot be ſo eaſily ſtated, but they are diſtinctly marked in the ſame record in 1676.

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
An advocate's retaining fee for my Lord,	20	0	0
The chamberlayn's allowance,	44	0	0
A year's board for my Lord at Glaſgow college,	82	0	0
A phyſician from Glaſgow for a viſit,	1	4	0
Do. do. from Edinburgh do.	4	10	0
A ſurgeon's viſit from Glaſgow,	0	7	3
To the phyſician's man	0	4	3
A furniſhed velvet hunting cap to my Lord,	1	5	0

	L.	s.	d.
A hat to my Lord,	0	12	0
A gun to do.	0	16	8
A pair pocket piſtols,	1	13	0
Do. hulſters furniſhed	0	18	0
A ſuit of cloths for his Lordſhip's page,	0	15	0
A ſaddle and bridle furniſhed to my Lord,	1	0	3
Matriculating his Lordſhip's arms,	1	8	0
Small ſeeds for his Lordſhip's garden yearly,	0	4	10
	L.	s.	d.
A ſtone of ſkimmed milk cheeſe,	0	4	6
Do. of ſweet milk not ſkimmed,	0	8	0
A threave of ſtraw for thatch,	0	3	0
A ſtone of do. do.	0	0	2
A ſtone of tarry wool,	0	7	0
Of white do.	0	9	6
A mutchkin of ſweet milk,	0	0	0½
A Scottiſh pint of churned do.	0	0	0½
Weaving a yard of linnen,	0	0	8
A man, a horſe and cart per day,	0	5	0
A ſpindle of linnen yarn ſpun,	0	1	6
A peck of potatoes dug for,	0	0	0½
A wood cutter a day,	0	1	3
A pealer do.	0	0	8
A ſtone of bark,	0	1	6
100 ſlabs 3½ feet long,	0	3	6
Do. 4½ feet long,	0	4	6

The rent of lands bore much the ſame proportion. At the above period, I find the very beſt lands in the valley, ſet from year to year, at the rate of 10s. ſter. the acre. At this moment, they yield from 50s. to L. 3 ſter. A great part of the valley is ſet at that rate: but, I ſuppoſe it would not yield

yield ſo much upon a leaſe of 19 years. In general the rents are very low in this pariſh, as the leaſes were many of them granted about the beginning of this century. An acre in potatoes or flax, if prepared for the crop, lets at L. 6 ſterling.

The wages of ſervants have riſen in a ſtill greater proportion. They are nearly triple to what they were even 40 years ago. Independent of his food, a ploughman expects from L. 10 to L. 12; a maid ſervant from L. 3 to L. 4. A hay cutter charges 2s. 6d. a day, a reaper in harveſt 2s. a female do. 1s. 6d. When engaged by the week and finding his own proviſions, a man receives 9s. and a female 7s weekly. A weaver can earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day at an average.

Antiquities, &c.——The antiquities in this pariſh are not very remarkable: yet a few deſerve a place in this account.

This diſtrict muſt have been the ſcene of contention, and the field of blood for many generations; perhaps from the days of Agricola, till the civil war in 1646. It ſeems to have been without the fixed limits of the Roman empire. For the ſouth boundary of the pariſh runs nearly parallel to Graham's Dyke for upwards of 6 miles. In that diſtrict of the wall, it is never more than half, nor leſs than a quarter of a mile ſouth of this pariſh. At Weſterwood, and Bar hill, there are two diſtinct Roman Forts; and of courſe, two Pictiſh forts in this pariſh correſponding to theſe: Cunny park to the former, and Balcaſtle to the latter. The laſt mentioned is by much the moſt remarkable. It is perhaps the moſt beautiful, regular, and entire of any Pictiſh fort in Scotland. It is placed in the angle of two ſmall rills, near a farm houſe called Caſtle town,

or Balcaſtle, on that account; and, it riſes regularly on all ſides at an angle of 45 degrees, ſo that the form of it reſembles the top of a hat; but it is not equally high all around. On the ſouth it is about 40 feet, on the north only 20 perpendicular: and it has been ſurrounded on all ſides by a foſs, which might eaſily be filled with water by the rivulets on either ſide. At the baſe it is nearly 100 yards in diameter; at the ſummit, which is flat, it is ſcarcely 50, and is quite circular. There is a tradition that it is hollow within; and ſome pretend to have ſeen the mouth of the mine open, which leads to the cavity. But, if there ever was ſuch a mine, it is now entirely ſhut up, and there is not the ſmalleſt veſtige of any ſubterraneous paſſage at preſent.

The ſloping ſides of this mound are covered with broom and bruſhwood. The top, though once overgrown alſo, is now cleared, and often cultivated, and produces excellent potatoes and oats.

The other fort at Cunny park ſeems not to have been ſo regular or large. At leaſt it is not now ſo entire: and ſcarcely deſerves to be mentioned.

Beſides theſe, there have been other Roman antiquities found in this pariſh and neighbourhood. For an account of theſe, I refer the reader to Horſeley's Britannia, and Henry's hiſtory. They are moſtly lodged in the univerſity of Glaſgow. That learned ſociety have thrown off copper-plate impreſſions of all the Roman antiques in their poſſeſſion.

There are ſeveral circular fortifications, called cheſters, which bear evident marks of great antiquity. The moſt remarkable are at Auchincloch, Auchinvillie, and Townhead. They are all ſimilar to each other, and much about the ſame

ſize;

ſize; being nearly 40 or 50 yards diameter. The outer wall or incloſure, for ſome of them have evident marks of ſmaller, but irregular incloſures within, conſiſts of a rude maſs, of large and ſmall tumbling ſtones, built without any regularity or order; and without mortar of any kind. In times of ignorance and barbariſm, they may however have been places of conſiderable ſtrength. Though it ſeems very uncertain for what purpoſe they were at firſt erected.

That they were ſtrong holds, or places of defence, or ſhelter, ſeems unqueſtionable. Indeed the name they bear, ſeems to indicate this much; for cheſter in Gaelic, ſignifies a *camp*. And as the name is of Gaelic original, for this as well as other reaſons, I am diſpoſed to think they are of greater antiquity, than even Agricola's wall, or Graham's dyke. Perhaps they are coeval with the Roman forts; and it is generally allowed, that theſe were formed before the wall.

If this be the caſe, in all probability, theſe cheſters may have been intended as places of refuge, for the women and children, and the defenceleſs and unarmed inhabitants of this diſtrict. To them they would naturally fly for ſhelter, in caſe of an unexpected defeat, or ſudden incurſion of the Roman invaders. The ſituation and ſtructure of theſe fortifications, ſeem both to favour this conjecture. They are ſituated at no great diſtance from the Roman wall; lying along the north ſide of the valley, which was the boundary of that empire. Beſides this, they contain a number of ſmall ſubdiviſions, like the ruins of rude huts, which might have ſerved for ſhelter from the ſtorm; as the great outer wall was for ſafety from the invader.

This at leaſt ſeems a more plauſible conjecture, than that they were intended as a place of ſecurity for cattle, and the other ſtock and moveables of the natives. They are too ſmall to contain any conſiderable number of cattle. And beſides the

the neighbouring mountains, furniſh in a thouſand different places, protection, as well as paſture for cattle, to much better purpoſe. Nor is it likely, that they were intended as a defence from the wolves, and ravenous beaſts. The wall that ſurrounds them, ſeems to be a work of much greater labour and ſtrength, than was neceſſary for this purpoſe.

But if we ſuppoſe, as is ſurely very likely, that the Caledonians had a ſtanding army always along the line of the Roman wall, they, though fearleſs of danger, and diſdaining all ſhelter, but the ſtrength of their own arm, muſt neceſſarily have been attended with a number of women, and defenceleſs followers. Theſe needed, and naturally ſought for a place of refuge. And ſuch a refuge, the cheſters might afford *

3

But

* Nature ſeems to have marked out this ſtrath, as the boundary of the Roman Empire. Whether it was pitched upon from neceſſity or choice, I cannot ſay. But the following particulars will make it appear, that it was the moſt eligible place for raiſing up a barrier againſt the native Caledonians.

1ſt, It is by much the narroweſt place in the whole Iſland. The Frith of Forth and Clyde interſect the kingdom for many miles on either ſide.

2dly, It is beſides the north boundary of the lowlands. The whole country to the north, appears to a ſtranger, to be an endleſs ſucceſſion of bleak and barren mountains.

3dly, The whole ſtrath of Kelvin, ſeems to have been an impaſſible moraſs. In ſome places, I ſuppoſe the whole valley was covered with water: From this weſtward to the Clyde, it was therefore a natural barrier of itſelf. From the Dullatur bog eaſtward, it ſeems to have been entirely under water. Camelodunum ſeems to have been a ſea-port town. If it was ſo, the whole valley to Kilſyth pariſh, muſt have been an arm of the ſea, though not navigable, yet next to impaſſible. Had it not been for theſe natural advantages of ſituation, the Roman wall muſt have been a feeble defence againſt the hardy, brave, and free ſons of Caledonia.

In more than one place, there ſeems to have been artificial mounds raiſed in the valley, to throw it under water.

The

But this is given merely as a conjecture. For though many of the ſtones have been removed, there never has been found the ſmalleſt veſtige of any inſcription, nor even of any character whatever upon them.

The *tumuli* in this pariſh are probably of equal antiquity with the cheſters. Theſe however, have never been numerous, or conſiderable; and they have all been raſed to the foundation, for many years. The larger ſtones have been uſed for building incloſures, the ſmaller for the highways. I have been able only to trace the ſite of two of theſe tumuli. The one at a field near Auchincloch, which I am told in Gallic, ſignifies a field of ſtones. The other about 600 yards eaſt from Chapel green. That they were erected as monuments over the dead is generally allowed, as urns containing the aſhes of the dead, have been found in moſt, if not in all that have been examined.

But the queſtion ſtill remains, by what nation were they erected? If by the native Caledonians, why have urns been found in them, with evident marks of the bodies having been burnt? If by other nations, whence came they? For though ſome may be ſuppoſed to be Roman, they cannot all be ſo, as the greateſt part of them are beyond the Roman boundary. And yet there is a very ſtriking ſimilarity in the ſtructure of them, which would argue they were the work of one nation. But for what end were ſuch mighty piles huddled together, in ſuch a rude confuſed maſs, and with ſuch immenſe labour and drudgery, upon the ſummit of very high hills too, where ſcarcely

The Ban-hill, ſeems to me to have been the moſt important fort. It is nearly centrical; and commands a view of the wall for nearly half its length; and it overlooks the whole ſtrath to the north. Beſides, it is nearly oppoſite to the only narrow place of the valley; where a paſſage could be forced with the greateſt expedition.

ſcarcely a ſtone was to be found? If it was merely to commemorate the atchievements of the dead, or as a monument to his praiſe; how comes it that there never has been found any inſcription, or even hieroglyphic, to point out the names, deſignation, character, or country of the deceaſed? If it was merely to defend the body from the ravenous wolves, and wild beaſts, one tenth, in many caſes, one hundredth part of the pile might have ſufficed. And beſides, the body ſeems to have been burned; ſo that there was no danger from that quarter. It ſeems, however, certain, that theſe were the works not of any individual, or family; but of a whole clan, or tribe, or nation. Perhaps they were the work of ages. All nations pay veneration to the aſhes of the dead; and I believe there are none ſo rude and uncivilized, as to have no monuments. In early ages, the natives of this iſland, might fall upon this method of diſtinguiſhing the graves of great heroes, and eminent ſaints. As a tribute of eſteem, every traveller as he paſſed, would naturally add his ſtone to the heap; ſo that although ſmall at firſt, it would increaſe from year to year, in proportion to the veneration that was paid to the deceaſed. In evidence of this, it is ſaid, that a ſimilar cuſtom ſtill prevails in the highlands of Scotland; and almoſt every cairn or tumulus, has its reſpective name, as Angus-cairn, &c.

One of the cairns in this pariſh, likewiſe records the name of ſome ſaint or hero. It is near a place called Kelvin-head. Now, as *kel*, or *cuil*, or *cella* ſignifies a cell, or burying ground; ſo *vean*, or *bean*, which in Gallic are the ſame, is the name of a Culdee ſaint; or, according to ſome, of *Fingal*, the Caledonian hero. At all events, this tumulus ſeems to have been the burying place of *Vean*. And hence the origin of the names in the neighbourhood of it, as *Bean-ton*, or, as it is now contracted, Banton; Beanemyre; Tom-vean,

or

or *bean*; and *Kelvin* is the name of the river, which riſes very nearly where the cairn ſtood.

There are both in the eaſt and weſt barony a few monuments of feudal tyranny. In the *Bar-wood*, (from whence it doubtleſs derived its name,) there is an eminence ſtill called the *Court hill*, where the haughty Barons were wont to ſit in judgement. And near Quinzie-burn in the weſt barony, there is an eminence called the *Gallow-hill*, where the ſentence was put in execution. The very place where the gallows ſtood, is ſtill pointed out. Theſe ſerve only to recall to mind the days of cruel deſpotiſm, when, at the call of a lawleſs tyrant, the defenceleſs, perhaps innocent victim, was dragged from his peaceful lowly cot, and in one ſingle day, without evidence of his guilt, or an opportunity of acquittal, was arraigned, tried, condemned, and executed! And while we heave a ſigh over the ſorrows of our fathers, the very recollection of that ſlavery under which they groaned and bled, makes us lift up our eyes in grateful homage, and bleſs indulgent heaven, that we are happy and free!

At different periods, and in a variety of places in this pariſh, there have been a number of ancient coins found. But the greateſt part by far has been concealed from the public. Of thoſe that have been ſeen, part have been of gold, part of copper, but the greateſt number of ſilver, and of all ſizes, from a three penny piece, to that of a crown. A few may ſtill be recovered, and at a very trifling expence, for they are regarded only as bullion; and as far as I have ſeen, would not be much eſteemed by the antiquarian.

The greateſt part have been found along the field, where the battle of Kilſyth was fought. It belongs not to me to give any detail of that engagement in this place. Suffice it only to ſay, that every little hill and valley, bears the name, or records the deeds of that day. So that the ſituation of

each army can be diſtinctly traced. Such as the Bullet and Baggage-know, the Drum-burn, the Slaughter-how or hollow, *Kill-e-many butts*, &c. &c. In the Bullet-know and neighbourhood, bullets are found every year; and in ſome places ſo thick, that you may liſt 3 or 4 without moving a ſtep. In the Slaughter-how, and a variety of other places, bones and ſkeletons, may be dug up every where; and in every little bog or marſh for three miles, eſpecially in the Dullatur bog, they have been diſcovered in almoſt every ditch. The places where the bodies lie in any number, may be eaſily known; as the graſs is always of a more luxuriant growth in ſummer, and of a yellowiſh tinge in ſpring and harveſt. The hilt of a ſword, and part of a ſaddle, with a variety of coins, have been found in different places; and at one time, a gold ring with an eſcutcheon was diſcovered; but it is now loſt, or in the poſſeſſion of ſome perſon unknown to me.

The little hill where the gallant Graham encamped the night before the engagement, is ſomewhat remarkable. The tents have been raiſed with ſod, and it is eaſy at this day, to diſtinguiſh the place where they ſtood, and the form and ſize of each. The ſtation was extremely well choſen, and gave him every advantage over the enemy, perhaps in a great meaſure enabled him to decide the combat.

The carnage muſt have been dreadful. And the conſequences were fatal, and long felt by the defenceleſs inhabitants. Like every other civil war, it was carried on with the keeneſt contention, and unrelenting cruelty. Many of the peaſantry were butchered, and many more plundered. To this day, numberleſs ſcenes of blood and cruelty are recorded. One in particular is mentioned. A poor country man having fled with his four ſons, was overtaken by a flying party. Being ſuſpected by them, they inſtantly fell upon the old man, though feeble and unarmed. The generous youths

clung

clung around their aged ſire, either to plead for, or defend him. In this poſture it is ſaid, they were all cut to pieces, and now lie in one tomb.

On this article I may mention, that there is a very fine arched vault, or burying ground, under the church. This was originally erected by the family of Kilſyth; and it has been their burying ground for many generations. As the eſtate was forfeited, and the title became extinct in the year 1715, it has never been uſed as a burying ground ſince that period. The unfortunate Viſcount himſelf fled to Flanders; and though he returned more than once, *incog.* in the habit of a common beggar, and as ſuch, lodged with ſeveral of his tenants, and ſecured a conſiderable quantity, if not the whole of his ſilver plate, yet it is certain, he was not buried in Kilſyth. The tradition is, and it is ſaid to be confirmed by a variety of people, and even by ſome papers and letters lately found, that he and a number of the unfortunate Nobleſſe, were either murdered, or died by a ſudden accident in Holland, about the year 1717.

The laſt that was buried in this place, was his lady. She is ſaid to have been of the family of Dundee *. Her body

* Jean, daughter of Lord William Cochrane, ſon and heir of William Earl of Dundonald. She was firſt married to John Viſcount of Dundee; then to the Viſcount of Kilſyth. Her ſon died in infancy.

See Crawford's Peerage, Dundee, Dundonald.

Lady Kilſyth with her infant ſon, was ſmothered or killed in Holland, or Flanders, by the falling of a roof, along with her huſband. It has been ſuppoſed that the thing happened not by accident, but deſign; that ſeveral conſiderable perſons who had been concerned in the Rebellion 1715, were involved in it, as well as the family of Kilſyth; and that only two of the whole company eſcaped, by being ſeated in a window. That this account is in general true, may be ſeen from letters lately found (in 1780), among the papers in the Advocates library, which refer to Kilſyth. The fact is detailed beſides in

being embalmed, was ſent over to Scotland ſoon after, and buried in great pomp, at Kilſyth. It was incloſed, firſt in a leaden coffin, nicely cemented; that again with a very ſtrong wooden coffin. The ſpace between the two coffins, was filled up with a white matter, ſomewhat of the conſiſtency and colour of putty; but of a rich and delicious aromatic flavour. It is but a few years ago, ſince this matter was laid open, by the decay of the wooden coffin. And a few weeks ago, the lead coffin was perfectly entire. But ſome rude thoughtleſs people, having gone to viſit the tomb, with ſacrilegious hands tore up the lead covering. To their great ſurpriſe, they found under it a board of fir, as clean and freſh, as if it had been formed yeſterday. This being looſened, by the removal of the lead, they, to their utmoſt aſtoniſhment, found the body of Lady Kilſyth, and her child, as entire as the hour they were entombed.

Every feature, and every limb, is as full, nay the very ſhroud is as clear and freſh, and the ribbans as bright, as the very day they were lodged in the tomb. What renders the ſcene truly intereſting as well as ſtriking, is, that the body of her ſon and only child, the natural heir of the titles and eſtates of Kilſyth, lies at her knee. His features are as compoſed, as if he were only aſleep. His colour is as freſh, and his fleſh as full, as if in the perfect glow of health. He ſeems to have been an infant of the age of 3 months.

The body of Lady Kilſyth, is equally well preſerved: and it would not be eaſy for a ſtranger to diſtinguiſh with his eye, whether ſhe is dead or alive. For, with the elegant ſtyle

in Dalrymple's Memoirs. The wound which Lady Kilſyth received was on the right temple; and is ſtill as diſtinct, as on the day ſhe received it. The child ſeems to have received no other injury, than that of being ſmothered in the arms of its mother.

ſtyle in which ſhe is dreſſed, the vivid colour of the ribbans, the freſhneſs of her looks, and the fulneſs of her features, ſhe arreſts the attention, and intereſts the heart. And unfeeling as the grave muſt that heart be, which doth not heave a ſigh at the ſight.

For my part, it excited in my mind a thouſand melancholy reflections. But above all, the deepeſt regret, that ſuch violence had been offered to her aſhes, as to lay them open to view. Happily there is not one fold of her ſhroud diſcompoſed, nor a ſingle feature or member yet impaired. But I fear, that being now expoſed to the open air, and the fine aromatic fluids within the coffin daily evaporating, the body muſt ſoon moulder into duſt. To prevent this, the coffin has been cloſed with as great care as poſſible, and the acceſs to the tomb is ſhut.

The liquid in which the body has been preſerved (and the coffin ſeems to have been full it, for the whole ſhroud is ſaturated with it), ſeems to be a pure ardent ſpirit, of the colour and conſiſtency of brandy, or rather ſpirit of wine. But though perfectly pure, it has entirely loſt all its pungent qualities, and ſeems now quite vapid,

The tomb is an arched vault 16 feet ſquare and quite ſhut up; but, from what it contained, the air of it is as ſweet, pure, and odoriferous as a ball room.

I have only to add, that there is in my poſſeſſion an old manuſcript, much mutilated, which ſeems to be a chronicle of Scotland. Much of it is yet legible. It takes up the hiſtory of Scotland at the chriſtian æra; and contains a regular ſeries of all the remarkable events in every king's reign, with the name of the kings, down to the year 1565. I have compared it with many memoirs, hiſtories, and annals of Scotland, but as far as I can yet learn, it is an original, and not a copy. I think it may be valuable.

This

This pariſh has in common with others experienced years of ſcarcity, on which a few remarks are ſubjoined in a note*.

Miſcellaneous

* Great ſcarcity approaching to a famine. The moſt remarkable was during the 7 laſt years of the laſt century. And for that reaſon, they are called the 7 dear years. There may perhaps have been one, or even two years ſucceſſively of as great ſcarcity ſince that period: but there never has been more. Of courſe, the evil was more laſting and more generally felt at that time, than ever ſince: and in all probability accumulated every year; till at laſt the abſolute neceſſaries of life could ſcarcely be got for any money. The price of proviſions was exorbitant. Barley meal, though very inferior in quality, was ſold at a merk the peck; oats roſe to the enormous ſum of L. 30 Scots the load, while oat meal was not to be purchaſed. For though ſeveral of the more opulent inhabitants went to Falkirk, the richeſt corn country within 30 miles, they could procure no ſupply at any price. Greens boiled with ſalt, became a common food. Fodder was as ſcarce as grain. Many of the cattle periſhed at the ſtall, and many of them who were driven out to ſeek a ſcanty pittance expired in the field. Mothers fell down dead with their infants at their breaſts. Even many of the people who ſurvived, were feeble and emaciated, and became a prey to numberleſs and fatal diſeaſes. The mortality was ſo great, that a peſtilence ſeems to have ſucceeded the famine.

The cauſes of this ſcarcity are not known. But it is ſaid, that the harveſts were late, and the winters early; ſo that the froſt and ſnow blaſted the growing corns.

Various ſhifts not known ſince, were tried in order to ward off the evil. Among the reſt it is mentioned, that ſnails were collected in ſummer with great care, and ſalted for the winter's ſtore.

Indulgent Heaven has been more liberal to us. So that this generation has never known want, like that which our fathers experienced. The year 1740, was a year of ſcarcity, perhaps equal to any one of the 7 dear years. Oat meal roſe to the exorbitant price of 2s. the peck: and at one time could ſcarcely be procured for money. Every other neceſſary of life was in proportion dear: yet few, if any, died of abſolute want. As money, however, was ſcarce, and manufactures almoſt unknown among us, numbers whoſe ſituations gave them no reaſon to expect it, were through want of employment reduced to the humiliating neceſſity of craving a ſcanty pittance from door to door. Others were ſupplied from the poors funds, in a more private manner. The number of Paupers was thus greatly increaſed; and their neceſſities and demands increaſed in proportion. Of courſe, the pariſh funds were deemed inſufficient, and an aſſeſſment became neceſſary. Yet this is the only year ſince the Revolution, that the ſeſſion were driven to this expedient.

The

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—A few remarkable phenomena which have appeared in this pariſh, are likewiſe ſubjoined in a note *.

Eminent

The cauſes of this ſcarcity are generally known. The harveſt was late. The corns of courſe were greatly injured by the winter froſt, which ſet in early and ſevere. Potatoes, though introduced into this pariſh, were only cultivated in very ſmall quantities by Mr Graham. Even thoſe that were raiſed, were not preſerved with ſuch care as to protect them from the ſtorm, which was uncommonly ſevere. Many fowls, ſome cattle, and a few of the wild animals, were frozen to death. Many of the people were froſt bitten. And much of the furze, broom, and brushwood, and of courſe, all the greens and garden ſtuffs, decayed and became uſeleſs.

It is almoſt unneceſſary to mention, that there was a conſiderable ſcarcity in the year 1782. I believe it was generally felt; and in other diſtricts more ſenſible than here. The potatoes though a moſt luxuriant cropt were rather late, and they were totally loſt. The corn harveſt was alſo late. The winter was early; ſo that a great part of the oats were never ripened. And no ſmall part was rotted in the field after it was reaped. Even that part which was preſerved, was not productive. The following year added to the calamity, for the ſeed being generally bad, and equally ſcarce, the produce of courſe was ſmall. The poor had leſs to ſow, and what was ſown was much leſs productive; ſo that upon the whole, that year was not much more abundant than the former. And, had it not been for a very ſeaſonable ſupply of white peaſe, both the poor and the rich muſt have been in a deplorable condition. Even the reſpectable farmers, who have generally meal enough and to ſpare, were reduced to the neceſſity of buying one peck of meal after another. Yet the price never much exceeded 1s. 6d.

The inhabitants of the village, eſpecially the ſociety of weavers, very wiſely laid out a part of their funds, for purchaſing that neceſſary article, at the loweſt wholeſale prices: and retailed it at prime coſt. This proved a great relief to multitudes. For meal was thus almoſt always to be had here, and at a lower price than could naturally have been expected. The ſociety loſt little or nothing; at the utmoſt only the intereſt of their money for a few months.

In the year 1793, and 1794, the great ſtagnation of trade, and the almoſt total want of employment, bore hard on the manufacturing claſs of inhabitants. And had the ſame circumſtances operated in ſame degree for a ſingle year more, all ranks and denominations muſt have felt the conſequences.

* In the year 1733, on the 27th June, there was a very remarkable thunder ſtorm. The morning was fair: the ſky clear: the ſun bright. About

Eminent Men.—This pariſh has produced a few eminent men, whoſe names ought to be recorded.

" Sir William Livingſtone of Kilſyth, was a man of much

" penetration

11 o'clock, A. M. a gleaming, but gloomy darkneſs overſpread the ſky. The ſun was ſhorn of his beams, and put on a diſmal dark copper colour.

The cloud that overcaſt the ſky, aroſe in the ſouth weſt. At firſt it appeared very ſmall: but as it approached, it became darker and larger, and gleamed with lightning. And as the darkneſs increaſed, the flaſhes became more vived.

About one o'clock, this cloud reached our hills. The lightenings flaſhed inceſſant: the thunder roared tremendous, and the mountains ſeemed to ſhake. At firſt, a few dropping fragments of broken ice of great ſize fell. This was a happy warning to all who were in the fields to fly for ſhelter. Had they remained without, they muſt have been greatly hurt, for ſome of the hail meaſured 3 inches in circumference; ſome ſay a great deal larger. And it fell in ſuch quantities, as to cover the ſurface ſome inches deep. It was noon next day before it melted away.

The damage done by the hail was very conſiderable; and by the flood from the hills ſtill more ſo. The barley which was beginning to ſhoot, the flax, which was then in the bloom, and the peaſe and beans, which had begun to bloſſom, were almoſt irrecoverably loſt, being cut and daſhed to the ground, by the hail. The corns in the vallies were greatly injured by the rapidity of the flood, though it was only of a few hours duration. As if a water ſpout had fallen, and ſome ſuppoſe this was the caſe, the face of the hills, which an hour before were parched, was covered with numberleſs torrents, ſo as to have the appearance of a great collection of cataracts. Every rill became a river, ſweeping houſes, bridges, corn, and cattle, all before it, with irreſiſtible fury. The conſequences of this flood were felt for years, and the devaſtation it occaſioned may yet partly be ſeen. Several acres in the vallies, were overlaid with ſtones of all ſizes, from ſtones of 20 tons, to the ſmalleſt gravel. In ſome places this layer was 4 or 6 feet deep; and a part of them ſtill remain. At a moderate calculation, the damage done in this pariſh, though fortunately it extended only to this, was upwards of L. 1000 ſterling. See beginning of Mr Robe's narrative.

Happily no lives were loſt, though many narrowly eſcaped. A woman

" penetration and conſiderable learning. Being eſpecially " eminent in the knowledge of the law, he was appointed " one of the ſenators of the College of Juſtice in 1609. And " having diſtinguiſhed himſelf in that office by his aſſiduity " and abilities, he was in a few years admitted to be one of " his Majeſty's Privy Council, and conſtituted Vice-Cham- " berlain of Scotland. He died about 1627."

" Mr

and child in her arms, were ſlightly injured by the lightning ſitting at her own fire, while a cat was killed at their feet. Some women who were bleaching clothes in the valley, narrowly eſcaped the rapidity of the torrent, by climbing up a thorn tree which was hard by. This thorn ſtill ſtands in the valley. Many cattle were ſwept away, along with the houſes in which they ſtood. It is ſaid, that ſome of theſe were left alive, when the flood ſubſided. It is even ſaid, that an infant in a cradle was carried ſeveral hundred yards along the ſtream, and yet was found ſafe.

In the years 1769 and 70, when the great canal was cut through the Dullatur bog, there appeared a very ſingular phenomenon. Myriads of ſmall toads, eachabout the ſize of a nut, or ſmall turkey bean, were ſeen hopping over all the adjacent fields, to the extent of ſeveral miles ſquare. Ten, ſometimes twenty or thirty, might be collected in one ſquare yard. So that when you looked along the ſurface of the ground, they appeared hopping like hail ſtones. What was very ſingular, they were all going in one direction, directly north; yet they were never ſeen beyond the ſummit of the hill; nor any where in any quantity the enſuing ſpring.

It is ſuppoſed they came originally from the Dullatur bog, which is a large and very deep moraſs; and in all likelihood it has once been a lake. For at preſent, it is only covered with a thin matted turf, or ſward. Under that, there is in moſt places, a great body of water, though in ſome, of flow moſs. And near the weſt end of it, there is a ſmall dry riſing ground covered with wood, which is called the *ealan*, or in Engliſh the iſland. From all which I am diſpoſed to think, that in the time of the Romans, perhaps ſince that period, it was one deep extenſive lake. Yet it never ſent forth at any other period in the memory of man, any ſuch ſwarm of reptiles. Theſe, though innumerable, were all of one age and ſize. If it were to ſend forth ſuch a ſwarm annually, the whole country would ſoon be overrun.

" Mr John Livingſton was likewiſe a native of this pariſh. " He was born in the year 1603. His father was a relation " of the family of Kilſyth, and poſſeſſed a ſmall eſtate in " the eaſt barony. It would appear, that the name of this " eſtate was Monaeburgh. The greateſt part of the village " is built upon it, though the boundaries of it are not well " known."

" Mr Livingſton was a man of letters and piety. Early " in life, he devoted himſelf to the ſtudy of divinity. He " held a charge in the miniſtry firſt in Ireland. After " ſpending a number of years in this charge, he was tranſ- " lated to Stranraer, and next to Ancrum near Jedburgh. " He was intelligent, active, zealous, and ſucceſsful in " promoting the intereſts of pure and undefiled religion. " His memory is ſtill dear; and though the memoirs he " wrote are in few hands, they are eagerly read by the inha- " tants of Kilſyth."

" His life, tranſactions, and death, are narrated at ſome " length. He died in the year 1672."

" I have had occaſion to mention, that Mr Robert " Graham of Tamrawer, was a native of this pariſh; and " that his name deſerves to be handed down to poſterity, " on account of his very ſucceſsful experiments upon the cul- " tivation of potatoes."

" It may perhaps deſerve to be mentioned, that there " is a family of the name of Stevenſon, who for many " generations have been eminently uſeful, and much em- " ployed in reſtoring diſlocated joints, and dreſſing bro- " ken limbs. Though in a great meaſure ignorant of " the theory, they have at leaſt acquired the practice; and " in all generations, as well as this, have been often ſuc- " ceſsful."

Mode of Living, &c.——A great variety of changes in the external appearance and mode of living of the inhabitants, have taken place within the laſt 50 years. The moſt obvious and remarkable of theſe may be mentioned.

In their dreſs, there is a very viſible change. Formerly, the moſt reſpectable farmers, uſed to wear nothing but Scotch cloth, generally of their own making, plaiding hoſe, and blue bonnets. Now, the ſervant men on holidays wear nothing elſe than Engliſh cloth, cotton and thread ſtockings, and hats. The females formerly, wore nothing but a linen head dreſs, and tartan worſted plaids, which covered the head, or at beſt red ſcarlet cloaks. Whereas now, every maid ſervant wears a ſilk bonnet and cloak, and generally muſlin or printed gowns, and thread ſtockings. So that the men and women ſervants, are now much more gayly dreſſed, than their maſters and miſtreſſes were formerly.

In their mode of living, ſimilar if not greater changes have taken place. Formerly no wheat bread was uſed, excepting by the family of Kilſyth, or on extraordinary occaſions, ſuch as marriages, funerals, or perhapson a fair or market day. Whereas now, it is almoſt univerſally uſed, by all denominations, at leaſt to breakfaſt. Oat meal, milk, cheeſe, and butter, were the principal food of all, and of many the only fare. Little or no beef, mutton, or veal, was uſed. Even opulent farmers thought it extravagant to ſalt the carcaſe of a whole cow, for winter. And the moſt reſpectable tradeſmen never uſed more than a leg of beef, in the year. So that in the whole village, there were not 12 cows killed; and probably not twenty-four in the whole pariſh. Whereas now, every tradeſman has his mart; and every farmer uſes one, many two or three, in the year. So that, at an a-

verage, there are 160 killed in the village, and 280 in the pariſh every year, beſides a very conſiderable number of ſheep, calves, and lambs in their ſeaſon.

Tea was not known in this pariſh 40 years ago. Whereas now, it is almoſt univerſally uſed, and by a great many both in the morning and afternoon.

The employments of the inhabitants are very different from what they were. The females formerly devoted by much the greateſt part of their time to ſpining flax; the reſt was ſpent in preparing the flax and tow, and working in the fields in ſpring, hay time, and harveſt. Now, ſpinning is much diſuſed, eſpecially by the young. Their are ſeveral hundreds of young girls from 8 to 14, who never ſpin at all. Perhaps the greater part of them, have never learned that uſeful art. Tambouring is now the chief employment. Every ſpecies of needle work occupies the reſt; excepting a few mothers and younger children of manufacturers, who are employed in preparing the yarn for the loom. Only a few of the farmers wives and ſervants are employed in ſpinning linen yarn.

The males in the town for the moſt part were labourers; though there were a few tradeſmen. Now there are a very few labourers, but a great proportion of tradeſmen of all denominations, eſpecially of weavers; and every perſon may now find employment.

This may account for a ſtriking change that has taken place, and been much obſerved by the older claſs, that this generation marries in general much younger than the former; eſpecially the tradeſmen. Many of the males marry below 20, and the greateſt part below 25; whereas formerly they ſeldom married below 30. The moſt part of the females marry below 20; whereas formerly 25 or 30 was the ordinary

ordinary age. The reaſon of this may be, that a numerous family of children *all idle*, neceſſarily became burdenſome; whereas now every child, male or female, above 6 years of age, can find employment; and a numerous thriving family is a great ſupport to a ſober induſtrious tradeſman.

The common utenſils of a family are very different from what they were 50 years ago. At that period, there were no tea kettles, tea diſhes, bellows, nor watches, and very few clocks. Now, every family can furniſh theſe articles. There were few ſpinning wheels, ſtill fewer check reels; in place of theſe, the *rock* and hand reel were uſed. There were no lint nor barley milns; of courſe, the lint was dreſſed at home, in each family; and the barley bruiſed in a ſtone mortar. Every farmer had his own kiln for drying his corns. A common kiln is now erected near each miln, where every farmer gets his grain dried at 6d per boll. There were no carts nor wheel carriages of any kind. All the grain was carried on horſeback, or in harveſt, upon ſledges or cars.

Indeed the roads were at that time ſo ſteep, narrow, and rugged, that wheel carriages muſt have been almoſt uſeleſs. The line of the roads was generally ſtraight, or nearly ſo, over hill and dale; or if they deviated from this courſe at any time, it was only to avoid ſome marſh, or to find a firm bottom. They ſeem to have thought of little elſe, at leaſt they never dreamed of a level road. Now the roads are good, and carts and wheel carriages of all kinds abound.

But the moſt remarkable changes have taken place in the courſe of 25 years. The introduction of manufactures, and the great canal, have been the principal cauſes of them.

The ſpecies of manufactures moſt run upon is the muſlin. Some of theſe are only a 1000, others 1700, and even 2000 reed; and of every ſpecies. There are at leaſt 350 hands thus employed. Suppoſing each hand to work 3 yards per day,

day, that will amount to upwards of 300,000 yards annually. At 6d per yard, which may be the average, that will amount to L. 7500, as the total earning of that craft yearly. By this account, every weaver is ſuppoſed to earn about L. 21:8s at an average. And it is an undoubted fact, that an ordinary tradeſman can eaſily earn at leaſt 1s a-day all the year round, making allowance for ordinary avocations. It is ſaid, that a ſober, induſtrious, and active hand, can even earn from 2s to 4s a-day, or at an average all the year round, 1s 6d, making reaſonable allowances for avocations.

N. B. The fly ſhuttle is commonly uſed, and allowed to be a great improvement.

Allowing him to have 3 or 4 ſons working with him, though each ſon earn but half the wages of his father, the amount is very conſiderable, and may enable a tradeſman to live well; and at the ſame time, provide liberally for his family. If he has daughters, their earnings at tambouring, may be very nearly at an average, 4d each day; though it is ſaid, when this branch was firſt introduced, they could make from 1s to 2s a-day. Even now, they ſometimes can earn a ſhilling. Suppoſing the tambourers to be 280, their joint earnings at 4d daily, will amount to upwards of L. 1200 ſterling; or nearly L. 5 annually each. But this is doubtleſs a very low eſtimate. I ſuppoſe at an average of old and young, and making every allowance, they earn at leaſt L. 6 each *.

Various

* About 3 years ago, Titus Harris from London began the cotton manufactory in this pariſh. From very ſmall beginnings, and ſome ſay with no capital, he, in the courſe of 12 months, raiſed the buſineſs to a conſiderable heighth, and employed many hands. At one time, he had 10 or 12 ſpinning jennies employed. But either owing to great miſmanagement or misfortune, or perhaps to both, he inſtantly gave way; by which means, a few families in this

Various other branches of manufactures have been introduced here. But excepting the making of ſickles, they have generally failed. At preſent, there are about 5 or 6 hands conſtantly employed in this branch. Their earnings are not known; and in the ſituation they are at preſent, it would be improper to make them public. They furniſh generally about 1600 dozen of ſickles every year; and ſend them all over Scotland, eſpecially to the north.

The making of files was alſo attempted. And it might have ſucceeded, had it not been owing to accidental circumſtances, which made it be removed elſewhere. The greateſt number that ever were employed in this branch, was 8 or 9. And they furniſhed about 3000 dozen yearly.

The ſtarch manufactory was at one time begun, and there was a fair proſpect of ſucceſs. But by miſmanagement or misfortune, it was given up.

At preſent, there is only one who tans hides in the pariſh. But 30 years ago, there were ſeverals. About that period, there were two breweries likewiſe employed; but they are both given up.

It is ſaid, that there are ſome marks of the truth of the tradition, that, in Roman Catholic times, the parſon carried on

this pariſh, and many elſewhere, were deeply involved. It may afford ſome picture of the times, and of the credulity of this nation, or at leaſt neighbourhood, to narrate his hiſtory. With his ſtaff in one hand, and his bundle in another, he arrived at Kilſyth altogether a ſtranger. At firſt he ſeemed to have little or no command of caſh; and of courſe little credit. Even for ſome months, he was looked upon with a jealous eye.

But having got ſome how or other credit, or a caſh account on ſome company in London, and his bills being honoured in a few inſtances at firſt, he rapidly roſe in credit, and by addreſs and application to buſineſs, ſeemed to be in a very flouriſhing way. But alas! it was at the expence of many, and to the ruin of a few. The amount of his debts, was L. 4000.

on an extenſive brewery. The ſite of it, and of his ſtack yard which was very large, were only lately dug up.

Road.—It is not above two years ſince the new line of road between Glaſgow and Edinburgh by Cumbernauld was firſt opened. Before that period, the principal road was by Kirkintilloch and Kilſyth; and it was very much frequented. Our little village, by being a general thorough fare, was always crowded, and had much the air of a buſy thriving place. There is now much leſs buſtle and noiſe, and more of the appearance of dullneſs and deſertion; yet trade is as briſk, and the inhabitants except a few publicans, are as thriving as at any former period. Two flys, and perhaps 10 or 12 poſt chaiſes, and double the number of poſt horſes, uſed to paſs daily. Now there is not a ſingle fly, ſeldom a poſt chaiſe in a week, and perhaps not a poſt horſe in a day. The chief inn in Kilſyth, though almoſt never clean or commodious, was much frequented. The publican uſed to keep one, two, or ſometimes four poſt chaiſes, and from 6 to 12 poſt horſes. Now there is neither chaiſe, nor almoſt a poſt horſe, to be found. Of courſe, the turnpike gate, which was formerly rented at L. 145, is now ſo low as L. 51, and yet the profit to the keeper is but ſmall.

The poſt-office, beſides affording a ſalary of L. 15 ſter. generally produced between L. 36 and L. 40 yearly. At preſent, it yields from L. 38 to L. 40, allowing a ſalary of L. 12 annually to the poſtmaſter. So that in trade, there is no falling off.

Advantages.—It remains for me to mention the peculiar advantages this pariſh enjoys. And happily theſe are many and great. The village in point of ſituation, will yield to none. It ſtands upon a gently riſing ground, a fine dry ſandy

ſoil,

ſoil, in the middle of a rich ſtrath, and it is acceſſible at all times, as it is upon the old north road from Glaſgow to Edinburgh; and what is highly favourable, it is at equal diſtances from Falkirk and Glaſgow on the eaſt and weſt, and from Hamilton and Stirling on the ſouth and north. The air is pure and ſalubrious. There is abundance of ſpring and running water, with both of which the town is copiouſly ſupplied: And there are in the immediate vicinity, a variety of ſituations very favourable for a bleachfield or printfield, and abundance of water-falls for machinery of almoſt any ſize. In one place eſpecially, a fall may be obtained of nearly 30 feet perpendicular, within 300 yards of a good coal, near abundance of fine lime, and upon a beautiful poſt of free ſtone, where the ſtones for the building might be dug out of the foundation. This is within a quarter of a mile of the village, and what is more, within leſs than an Engliſh mile of the great canal. So that there is an open eaſy acceſs to the German and Atlantic oceans, and by them to the whole world. This conſideration is of great conſequence to a manufacturing village. It gives us at once, all the advantages of an inland and ſea port town combined. For we can export our manufactures to any port, and import grain or other commodities from any quarter of the globe, with equal eaſe as at Greenock, or Grangemouth. The rich abundance of the carſes of Falkirk, Stirling, and Gowry, and of the fertile lands of Lothian, Carrick, and Ireland, is brought to our doors, at as eaſy and cheap a rate, as if they were our neighbouring pariſhes, within 6 or 10 miles.

Theſe advantages have induced a great many new ſettlers to come among us. And Sir Archibald Edmonſtone, Bart. of Dunbreath, and proprietor of the eſtate of Kilſyth, with a ſpirit truly liberal and generous, has given them every en-

couragement, and has within theſe 8 years feued a complete new town.

Diſadvantages.—But while we enjoy many advantages, and are abundantly ſenſible of it, we labour under a few peculiar diſadvantages, though I truſt we are grateful to heaven that they are ſo few and ſmall. A few of theſe diſadvantages I ſhall ſhortly enumerate.

1ſt, It is doubtleſs a conſiderable loſs, that none of the principal heritors reſide in the pariſh. All claſſes and denominations, but eſpecially the poor, muſt feel this. The tender nurſing hand of a liberal landlord, is to them, a mighty bleſſing.

2d, But it is not only thoſe who feel the loſs. The pariſh at large, but eſpecially the town, have cauſe to regret, that there is not within the pariſh a ſingle juſtice of the peace, commiſſioner of ſupply, or magiſtrate, nor even a baron bailiff: ſo that the ſmalleſt petty offence, or outrage, cannot be redreſſed without applying to ſome juſtice of ſome neighbouring pariſh.

And what is ſtill worſe, every idle, worthleſs vagrant, who can find ſhelter no where elſe, is apt to reſort to this as a place of refuge, where he may ſkulk about and pilfer with impunity. Amazing crouds of ſturdy beggars infeſt us at all times, eſpecially in harveſt, when all the males are at work in the field. At that time they not only crave a reaſonable alms, but often enforce their unreaſonable demand, by frightening the peaceable and induſtrious inhabitants. If there be any evil which calls for redreſs in this place, this is one; and to redreſs it is ſurely not impoſſible.

3d, It is likewiſe a loſs to this pariſh, that we have no weekly market. The peaſant and manufacturer, whether in the town or country muſt feel this.

4th, The farmers labour under a few inconveniences. But they

they are only few, and much more than counterbalanced, by the many peculiar advantages they enjoy.

Characters of the Inhabitants.—The characters of the inhabitants of this pariſh, are as various as their countenances; as in every mixed ſociety, the good and the bad are blended together.

To ſpeak in general terms, however, they are punctual in their attendance on religious ordinances, decent and devout in their external appearance, and regular in their manners. They are ſober, active, and induſtrious; open, candid, and even generous in their dealings; loyal to their ſovereign, obedient to all lawful authorities; and they ſtudy to live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godlineſs and honeſty.

Though divided into various ſects, they are to a man ſteady friends to the proteſtant perſuaſion, and live together in the unity of the ſpirit, and the bond of peace.

Upwards of one half of the inhabitants can trace back their parentage, for many generations, all natives of this pariſh. Independent in their circumſtances, and of a more independent ſpirit, they have a high ſenſe of honour, and a great regard to character.

The above will by many be deemed a flattering picture; and I dare ſay, I may be accuſed of partiality. My only plea is, that I have been born and bred among them; upwards of 500 of them are my blood relations. For this cauſe, I am perhaps better acquainted with their feelings and ſentiments than any man, and though partial, I truſt I am too upright to flatter them. On the contrary, I muſt acknowledge, that among the riſing generation, there are many leſs regular in their manners than their fathers.

I have many reaſons to be attached to this pariſh. Where-

ever I turn my eye, I meet with the friends or companions of my youth. Tenderly alive to all they feel, and all they fear, I cannot but have a deep concern, and ardent deſire, for their temporal and eternal intereſts. Happy ſhall I be, if living or dying, I can be the humble inſtrument of turning even one of them to righteouſneſs *.

* There is a very curious collection of old parchments in this pariſh. Some of them go nearly as far back as the Reformation. They principally refer to the affairs of the church, being charters or grants of lands and privileges from certain abbeys to certain livings. Among the reſt are ſome from Cambuſkenneth near Stirling.

They might afford matter of much curioſity, perhaps furniſh ſome important information.

NUMBER

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF KIPPEN.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN CAMPBELL.

Name.

THOUGH many names of places in this country are undoubtedly of Gaelic origin, yet it is difficult to procure any etymology of the name of the parish, that may be considered as perfectly satisfactory. *Ceap* in Gaelic, is nearly of the same import with the English word *cape*, or promontory, and resembles it in sound. From this the word *Kippen* is said to be derived; and the name is supposed to be descriptive of the situation of the village, which stands on an eminence, near the point of the hill, which terminates at Boquhan. The village has exactly this appearance, when viewed from the north west, as from Cardross, or the opposite braes of Monteath.

Situation and Limits.—The parish of Kippen lies within the counties of Perth and Stirling; under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Dunblane, and Synod of Perth and Stirling. It is bounded on the north by the river Forth,

Forth, which ſeparates it from the pariſhes of Kilmadock, Kincardine, and Port. On the eaſt, it marches with Gargunnock; on the ſouth, with Balfron; and on the weſt, with the pariſh of Drymen. The road from Stirling to Dunbarton paſſes through this pariſh for 7 miles; it is more, however, than 8 miles in length, between the diſtant extremities. Its breadth is unequal; generally from 2 to 3 miles; at the middle of the pariſh, it is nearly 4 miles broad.

Boundaries of Stirling and Perth Shires.—One might have expected that the river Forth, which forms a natural limit to this pariſh for ſeveral miles, ſhould have alſo ſerved as a boundary to the ſhire of Perth. This county however, in two or three places, paſſes over this natural limit, and becomes indented in the county of Stirling; ſo that about one third part of the pariſh of Kippen, lies in Perthſhire, the other two thirds in Stirlingſhire. Such an irregularity ſeems now ſurpriſing. But it is well known, that ancient proprietors had influence to get ſuch portions of their eſtates as they choſe, disjoined from thoſe counties within which they were locally ſituated, and connected with ſuch other counties, as better ſuited their convenience. Other inſtances of this kind, and more remarkable than in the caſe before us, might eaſily be adduced in ſupport of this obſervation *.

General Aſpect of the Country.—From ſome of the higher grounds, an ample and variegated proſpect preſents itſelf to the eye of the ſpectator. At the head of the ſtrath, ſtands the

* Some lands in the pariſhes of Bonhill and Kilmaronnock, which formerly belonged to the laird of Gleneagles, and of which he is ſtill ſuperior, were once connected with the ſhire of Perth, though they lie at a conſiderable diſtance from the limits of that county.

the houſe of Gartmore, commanding a view of the whole plain below, which extends eaſtward for 20 or 30 miles. The houſe and policy of Cardroſs, a few miles farther down the country, greatly enliven the landſcape. The carſe, a rich and beautiful valley, exhibits an incloſed and well cultivated country, embelliſhed with numberleſs farms, and gentlemen's ſeats; and in ſummer and autumn, often loaded with luxuriant crops. So rich and extenſive a ſcenery is rarely to be ſeen. The duſky ſpots which are covered with moſs, pleaſe by contraſt; and the imagination is gratified by anticipating the period, when the moſs ſhall be cleared away, and its room occupied by the uſeful productions of the earth, and the habitations of men. Stirling caſtle, and the rocks of Craig-forth and Abbeys-craig, appear on the eaſt, like iſlands emerging out of the carſe. The braes of Monteath riſe on the northern ſide, like an amphitheatre. And a rugged range of the Grampian mountains, ſtretching from Benlomond to the Ochills, encompaſſes the whole. Thus the eye is at once gratified, with a proſpect of rude and cultivated nature, and with a ſurvey of the noble effects of human induſtry and art.

Carſe.—The pariſh of Kippen is divided by nature into the *carſe* and *dryfield*. The former conſiſts of the level ground that lies on the ſouth ſide of the Forth, between that river and the riſing grounds. It is of unequal breadth, from half a mile to a mile, and in ſome places more; and forms a part of that extenſive plain, which reaches from Gartmore on both ſides of the river, as far eaſtward as Borrowſtounneſs. In different places in this pariſh, it is covered with moſs to the extent of 300 or 400 acres.

Moſs.—There ſeems reaſon to believe, that the greater part

of the plain eaſtward from Stirling, has at one period been covered with moſs; and that the arable lands on both ſides of the river, have been recovered from the moſs, by dint of labour, in a courſe of ages. It is probable that the whole of this extenſive plain, had been previouſly under water. Shells, both ſeparate and collected into beds, are found throughout the carſe; and it is not long ſince fiſh bones of a conſiderable ſize, have been met with in the neighbourhood of Stirling. The maſs of clay would naturally be accumulated and levelled by the operation of the tides. The period in which this part of the country was under water, muſt be very remote, as on this ſubject both hiſtory and tradition are equally ſilent. After the receſſion of the waters, the ſame ſpace muſt have been occupied with trees and ſhrubs. Theſe would be produced by the ſame cauſes, which, in proceſs of time, cover ground that is left without culture, with various vegetable productions. A foreſt would at laſt appear; and by the fall and putrefaction of this foreſt, the moſs, in its preſent ſtate, has unqueſtionably been formed. Oaks of a great ſize, are ſtill found on the ſubjacent earth, where the moſs has been cleared away. Many of theſe are in good preſervation; when expoſed to the air for ſome time, they become hard; and when put to uſe, prove very durable. They are rarely ſerviceable for furniture; but ſuit very well for roof timber, ſtobs, and bridges over moſs ditches. Other trees, ſuch as birch, alder, black-ſaugh, rowan, hawthorn, and hazle, are alſo found; hazle nuts are frequently met with. The trunks or bodies of theſe trees, are generally conſumed; but the roots remain. It is natural to enquire, how this great foreſt ſhould happen to be overthrown. A hurricane of wind occurs at firſt, as a poſſible cauſe of this great effect. But in this caſe it is obvious, that the trees muſt either have been broken about the middle, or torn up by the roots, and would be

be found uniformly lying in the direction of the current. But the roots are generally found ſtanding in the clay; the trunks ſeparated from them a little above the ground, lying in all directions; and ſometimes, on the oaks particularly, the marks of an ax or hatchet have been traced. The teſtimony of ſeveral hiſtorians of credit, as well as other authentic monuments, lead us to a diſcovery of the authors of this great cataſtrophe. When the Romans puſhed their conqueſts into Britain, our anceſtors, the Britons and Caledonians, were forced by the victorious legions to retire to their hills, or ſecure themſelves in thoſe extenſive foreſts, with which the iſland then abounded. From theſe ſtrong holds they ſallied forth as opportunity offered, and by their frequent incurſions, not only annoyed the armies of their conquerors, but enriched themſelves with booty. From the ſpeech of Galgacus, given by Tacitus in his life of Agricola, it appears that the Romans had been much employed in cutting down foreſts and draining moraſſes, with a view to ſecure themſelves againſt ſuch predatory attacks from the natives. But to put an effectual ſtop to theſe depredations, in the laſt expedition of the Emperor Severus, general orders were iſſued to cut down all the foreſts throughout this part of the iſland. This ſervice was performed by the Roman legions, aſſiſted by thoſe natives whom they had been able to ſubjugate. Herodian * conciſely mentions this fact. Dion Caſſius †, whoſe account is more particular,

* Lib. III. c. 48.

† Xiphilin. ex Dione, lib. 39. The paſſage relative to this ſubject in the abridger of Dion, is curious and intereſting. "Quam Severus, quum vellet omnem in ſuam poteſtatem redigere, ingreſſus eſt in Caledoniam, eamque dum pertranſiret, habuit maxima negotia, quod ſylvas cæderet, et loca alta perfoderet, quodque paludes obrueret aggere, et pontes in fluminibus faceret. Nullum enim prælium geſſit, neque copias hoſtium inſtructas vidit; a quibus proponebantur

informs us, that in this expedition, the Romans loſt no leſs than 50,000 men. We need not wonder then at the ſpeed and ſucceſs, with which this great undertaking was accompliſhed *. In the moſs of Kincardine, a Roman way, 12 feet wide, and regularly formed by trees or logs of wood laid acroſs each other, is ſtill to be traced †. And a Roman camp kettle was found in the year 1768, in the lands of Mr Ramſay of Ochtertyre, which has been preſented by him to the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh. Such are the grounds on which it is believed that the foreſt in this part of the country was cut down by the Romans; moſt probably in the expedition of Severus, A. D. 207, whilſt Donald I. reigned in Caledonia. He was the firſt Scottiſh prince (according to Buchanan ‡), who embraced Chriſtianity. The overthrow of this foreſt would naturally interrupt the courſe of thoſe various ſtreams which formerly ran through the valley. This body

proponebantur conſultò oves boveſque, ut quum ea noſtri raperent, ac longe de via declinarent, facile opprimerentur. Ad hæc noſtris aquæ valde oberant, diſperſisque inſidiæ parabantur: quumque non poſſent iter facere, occidebantur a ſuis, ut ne ab hoſtibus caperentur. Itaque mortui ſunt e noſtris ad quinquaginta millia. Neque tamen deſtitit Severus, quouſque ad extremam inſulam venit.

* Modern hiſtorians, relying on theſe authorities, agree in their accounts of the tranſactions of the Romans at this period in Britain. Buchan. Rer. Scot. Hiſt. Lib. IV. c. 37. Henry's Hiſt. of Great Brit. Vol. I. chap. 1. Encyc. Brit. edit. 3. Vol XII. p. 388, under the word Moss.

† In Moſs Logan in this pariſh, a way has lately been diſcovered, which from all accounts, in reſpect of breadth and conſtruction, exactly reſembles that in the moſs of Kincardine. But as the information concerning it was received only ſince this account was drawn up, no opportunity has yet offered of examining it ſo particularly, as to authorize a more decided opinion reſpecting its origin.

‡ Hiſt. lib. IV. 36.

body of ſtagnant water, ſwelled from time to time by rains, and melted ſnow, and rivulets deſcending from the heights, would continue to increaſe till it became ſo conſiderable as to open a paſſage for itſelf to the eaſt. And thus the valley, at that period, muſt have exhibited the appearance of a vaſt moraſs. The wood and leaves, and other vegetable ſubſtances, all rotting together, would in time accumulate, and form the great body of the moſs. The conſolidation of this maſs of corrupted vegetables would leave room for the water above it, to run off by ſuch channels as it could find or form. By ſuch a proceſs in a ſeries of ages, it is natural to imagine, that this moſs has been brought into the ſtate in which it now appears.

Caſting of Peats.—The ſoil underneath the moſs is a ſtrong rich clay. The moſs is generally from 8 to 10 feet in depth, and conſiſts of different ſubſtances, regularly diſpoſed in ſtrata, as follows. Immediately above the clay is a ſtratum of fat brown earth, from 9 to 12 inches in depth, ſuppoſed to have been formed by the incorporation of the clay with the contiguous moſs, and which ſeems to have been the vegetable mold, covering the clay when the foreſt was cut down. The next bed lying immediately above the former, is the great body of the moſs, which conſiſts of various vegetable ſubſtances, corrupted, compacted, and matured by age. This is annually cut for peats, and ſupplies moſt families in this country with fuel through the year. The upper ſtratum is a light and ſpongy ſubſtance, much paler in the colour than the bed of peat moſs. It ſeems to be formed chiefly of decayed leaves and ſtalks of heath, bent graſs, and other plants with which the ſurface of the moſs is overgrown, but not yet ſufficiently corrupted ſo as to be formed into moſs. Of this upper ſtratum, 3 or 4 feet muſt always be pared away, which is generally done

in winter, and thrown by the ſpade into the pit out of which the peats were taken in the preceding year. It then forms the *ſpreadfield*, or ground upon which the new peats are laid out to be dried. As the whole of it cannot be thus diſpoſed of, the remainder is by means of little canals formed for the purpoſe, floated down into the Forth. The peats are always caſt as ſoon as poſſible after ſeed time, and are carried home in the courſe of the ſummer or harveſt. It was a remarkable proof of the uncommon wetneſs of the ſeaſon 1792, that few peats were got home that year, but remained on the ſpreadfield till next ſummer. This circumſtance had not happened before in the memory of man, and neceſſarily ſubjected poorer families to very great inconvenience.

Clearing away of Moſs.—As the carſe ſoil is ſo valuable, it muſt be an object of importance to the proprietors, to have the ſuperjacent moſs cleared away *. Thoſe portions of land, which in this pariſh are recovered from the moſs, are ſuch as lie under old ſpreadfields, from which the peats have formerly been taken. This operation is generally performed in winter. The water which comes down from the higher grounds in *burns* or rivulets contiguous to the moſs, is by means of ſmall ducts or canals introduced into the ſpreadfield which is intended to be put away. The ſpreadfield having been previouſly interſected with theſe canals, of a proper depth and width, its ſubſtance is, by many hands, thrown into theſe when water can be had in plenty, and thus carried down into the river. Much yet remains to be done, before the arable land is procured. About a foot of moſs, mixt with many fragments of trees and roots,

* Mr Drummond of Blair-Drummond, carries on an undertaking of this nature on an extenſive ſcale. See an intereſting account of the proceſs employed for that purpoſe in Encyc. Brit. 3d. edit. Vol. XII. under the article Moss of KINCARDINE.

roots, ſome ſmall, many very large, muſt be digged up. In ſome places this operation muſt be repeated oftener than once. Such of theſe fragments as are unfit for any uſeful purpoſe, are burnt when dry, generally in the months of May and June. The aſhes, with what remains of the moſs, and brown earth formerly mentioned, when judiciouſly mixt with the clay, form together one of the beſt ſoils. Some pains are alſo requiſite to level the inequalities, which is beſt done at firſt, to to prevent the water from ſtanding in the hollows. The clearing away of the ſpreadfield was formerly done for L. 40 Scots, or L. 3 : 6 : 8 ſter. per acre; but ſince wages have increaſed, it will coſt from L. 5 to L. 6 ſter. In this manner in a courſe of years, a conſiderable quantity of land has been gained from the moſs, worth from 15s. to 20s. ſter. per acre. The carſe ſoil, in favourable ſeaſons, produces rich crops of every kind of grain common in this country; particularly wheat, beans and peaſe, and oats; barley is not ſo certain a crop.

Haugh.—Beſides the moſs, and the land recovered from it, there is along the banks of the Forth, a narrow ſtrip of haugh or holm, which is very fertile, and equally adapted to tillage or paſture.

Dryfield.—From the carſe, the lands riſe at firſt abruptly, and then very gradually for about a mile, or more in ſome places; continuing flat for a conſiderable ſpace, they again decline towards the ſouth. This elevated part of the pariſh, is called the *dryfield;* a term which is by no means deſcriptive of the nature of the ſoil, but is uſed merely to diſtinguiſh it from the lower grounds or *carſe.* Where it firſt ſprings from the carſe, it is marked by all thoſe appearances which the banks of rivers that have been deſerted by them exhibit. The interjacent valley between this pariſh, and the green

hills

hills of Boquhan and Glinns, is very narrow at the eaſtern extremity. Towards the weſt, the country is more open. From the ſouthern boundary, moſt of the baronies in this pariſh are laid off, parallel to each other, down to the ſides of the Forth. The dryfield of Kippen forms the greater part of that hill, which, commencing at the bridge of Boquhan, and extending through the whole of this pariſh, and part of the pariſhes of Balfron and Drymen, terminates about a mile weſtward from the village of Balfron. The land which lies on its northern declivity, forms the main body of the pariſh of Kippen, and exhibits a pleaſing view of fruitful fields, generally well incloſed, and occaſionally interſected with glens and rivulets.

Moor of Kippen.—Towards the ſummit and ſouthern declivity of the hill, on which it hath been obſerved, that the greater part of this pariſh is ſituated, there is an extenſive moor, called the moor of Kippen, which runs the whole length of the pariſh, and comprehends alſo part of Balfron. On the ſouth ſide, the ground which is lighter, and not ſo good as that on the north ſide of the hill, ſlopes gradually for half a mile or more, and is terminated by a ſmall rivulet called the Pow of the Glinns, which divides Kippen from Balfron. This water runs eaſtward, till it falls into the burn of Boquhan, which again forms the boundary between Kippen and Gargunnock, and empties itſelf into the Forth, at the bridge of Frew. Another ſmall ſtream, weſt from the former, takes a different courſe, and runs weſtward into the water of Endrick, which finally goes into the Clyde. Under the moſſes in the moor of Kippen, are found ſome oaks and other trees, though not ſo large as thoſe in the low moſs on the ſides of the Forth. It is probable that the whole dryfield has been covered with wood, moſtly oak; for on the ſides of

the glens, through which the water collected in the moor runs down into the Forth, the trees grow thick, and within these 50 years, ſtocks of oaks with young ſhoots growing from them have been ſeen in different places: theſe however, are now rooted out, and the fields cleared for the plough.

Stones.—The moor abounds with red and white free-ſtone. On the ſouthern boundary lime-ſtone is alſo found. This lime-ſtone, containing a conſiderable portion of ſand, ſuits the carſe well, but is not thought ſo proper for the dry-field.

Lake.—In the moor, there is a ſmall lake or reſervoir of water called *Loch-leggan*, about a mile in circumference. A ſmall ſtream iſſues from it, which turns ſeveral mills. In the middle of the loch, there is a *cairne*, or heap of ſtones, ſuppoſed to be the ruins of an old houſe, of which however, no authentic accounts can now be obtained. There are no fiſh in the loch, but a few perches of a ſmall ſize. Trouts are to be had in the ſeveral rivulets which run into the Forth: the burn of Boquhan affords them in greateſt plenty.

River Forth.—The river Forth has but a mean appearance in this part of the country. It is confined within narrow and deep banks, and except in a few places, its current is ſo very ſlow, as hardly to be perceptible. From Gartmore to Stirling, a line of 20 miles, the fall of the river is ſaid not to exceed, on an average, a foot in the mile. The banks of the Forth, are from 10 to 20 feet; and in ſome places more from the ſurface of the bank, to the bottom of the river. Many large trees are ſtill found in the bottom; and ſome appear with their ends projecting from the banks, as the water waſhes away the clay. They are found at different depths, from

6 to 20 feet below the ſurface of the bank; and in all directions, ſome lying horizontally, others ſtanding almoſt upright. The river contains both pike and perch. In former times, ſalmon uſed to come up in abundance, but ſince the moſſes began to be cleared away, they have not been taken in any conſiderable quantity. There are two bridges over the Forth in this pariſh; one near Cardroſs built in 1772, the other at Frew, built in 1783; both at preſent are in good repair.

Natural Curioſities.—"The burn of Boquhan, which, deſcending from the rock of Ballochleam, makes little impreſſion on the ſtrata of lime-ſtone or iron, meets at laſt with the red ſand-ſtone, through which it has opened a paſſage, and wrought its ſoft materials into a number of curious ſhapes, ſuch as the wells and caldrons of the Devon. It is yet remembered, when it burſt through a large projection of the rock, and threw the mill with all its appendages, on the other ſide of the bank *."—In the garden of Broich, there is a yew tree, of a regular conical form, whoſe branches ſhooting regularly from the trunk, with their extremities falling down to the ground, exhibits the appearance of a large umbrella to thoſe who ſtand under its ſhade. The circumference of the trunk about 2 feet above the ground, is 10 feet; height of the trunk to the loweſt row of branches, 9 feet; height of the tree, about 50 feet; circumference of the circle overſpread by the lower branches, 140 feet. It is ſuppoſed to be 200 or 300 years old; and though it may not vie with the yew of Fortingal, muſt ſtill be allowed to be a beautiful object.

Antiquities and Hiſtory.—The names and ſituations of ſeveral places in the pariſh, plainly ſhew that in former times, they have

* Gen. Campbell's notes, page 18.

have been places of ſtrength. Thus the caſtle of Arnfindlay, of which no veſtiges now remain; the tower of Garden, part of which, was ſtanding 20 or 30 years ago; the remains of the houſe and caſtle of Arnprior, may ſtill be traced. The houſe of Broich too, ſeems to have been ſurrounded with a rampart and foſſe. A ſmall green mound on the eaſtern confines of the lands of Buchlyvie, appears to have been a tumulus. Some human bones, incloſed in flags of ſtone, were lately found in it; but there is no tradition which gives any account of its origin.—Some years ago, an urn containing aſhes and bones, was found in the Caſtle-hill of Daſher. There are ſeveral ſmall heights in this pariſh, to which the name *Keir* * is applied, which bear the marks of ſome ancient military work, viz. Keir-hill of Glentirran, Keir-hill of Daſher, Keir-brae of Drum, Keir-know of Arn-more, and Keir-brae of Garden. On the ſummit of each of theſe, there is a plain of an oval figure, ſurrounded with a rampart, which in moſt of them ſtill remains entire. The *Peel of Garden*, (on which there is a work of the ſame kind,) is leſs elevated in point of ſituation; it riſes but a little above the carſe. The incloſure however is conſiderably larger than that of the Keirs; and the rampart and ditch, in reſpect of form and appearance, have ſuffered leſs from the injuries of time. None of theſe are of ſufficient extent to have ever admitted of a regular encampment. The circumference of the rampart on the Keir-hill of Daſher, (which is neither the largeſt nor the ſmalleſt, and the only one that has been meaſured,) does not exceed 130 yards. Various opinions have been entertained concerning theſe works. The country people ſay that they were Pictiſh forts. A different conjecture ſuppoſes

* "Keir, Caer, Cheſter, Caſtra, are ſaid to be words of a like import."—Gen. Campbell's notes, page 17.

them to have been temporary forts, or ſtations erected by the Romans, for giving ſignals, depoſiting proviſions and ſtores, and protecting their pioneers from the attacks of the Caledonians, whilſt employed in cutting down the great foreſt in the plain below. This conjecture, it is imagined, receives ſome ſupport from the conſideration, that places of a ſimilar form are found in other parts of the country, into which the Romans are known to have penetrated. Others, unwilling to admit their pretenſions to ſo high antiquity, believe them to have been formed by the feudal proprietors; for ſome purpoſes of ſecurity or convenience, which it may be difficult now to diſcover. It is ſurely matter both of ſurpriſe and regret, that no certain account can now be obtained of the origin and uſe of theſe works; which apparently have formed a part of ſome extenſive ſyſtem, the developement of which might ſerve to illuſtrate the ancient ſtate and hiſtory of our country *.—A diſpute having ariſen between

* There ſeems to be a conſiderable reſemblance between theſe forts, and the forts of the Firbolgs, of which an account is given in Groſe's Antiquities of Ireland. The paſſage alluded to, is extracted from that work in the Monthly Review, for December 1794, page 394; and was not ſeen by the writer of this account, till after it was prepared for the preſs. The inſertion of the paſſage may perhaps be gratifying to ſome readers. "The forts "common in this period, will be ſeen to be perfectly conſiſtent with the rude "ſtate of the military art among the Firbolgs; though very ſuperior to thoſe "of the Celtes. The Iriſh, who retained the cuſtoms of the latter, Cam-"brenſis tells us, had no caſtles; their woods ſerved them for camps, and "their marſhes for ditches. However, they learned from the Firbolgs, to "take refuge on hills, as Cæſar ſays the Britons did. Theſe were conical "riſing grounds, which were encircled with a ſingle, double, or triple en-"trenchment, and which afforded ample protection; ſuch were the infinite "number of high round forts every where to be met with, and by Cam-"brenſis, expreſsly aſcribed to the Oſtmen. The ſize of theſe earthen forts, "varied with the number and power of the clan; ſome are but 18 or 20 "yards in diameter, others cover as many acres."

tween the inhabitants of the baronies of Glentirran and Arnprior, reſpecting the courſe of the ſtream that iſſues from Loch leggan, the parties met at a place near the loch, determined to decide the conteſt by arms. In this affray, ſeveral perſons were killed; from which circumſtance, the place bears the name of *Bloody mires*. King James V. who then reſided at Stirling, having taken cogniſance of this matter, ordered the ſtream to be taken from both, and turned into the channel, which it ſtill retains. He likewiſe ordered the *new mill* to be built, which, being conſidered as a royal mill, pays a ſeparate ceſs to this day.—During the arbitrary reigns of Charles II. and James II, the inhabitants of this pariſh ſuffered greatly from the perſecution and tyranny which then prevailed. Mr Ure of Shirgarton, a gentleman of diſtinguiſhed piety and zeal, underwent various hardſhips, the memory of which is ſtill preſerved by tradition in the neighbourhood *.—In the year 1676, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was diſpenſed in the *night*, to a very numerous meeting at Arnbeg †. The miniſters who aſſiſted in diſpenſing that ordinance, were Meſſrs. John Law, after the Revolution miniſter at Edinburgh, Mr Hugh Smith at Eaſtwood, and Mr Matthew Crawford.—A chapel formerly ſtood near the eaſtern boundary of the pariſh, beſide the old manſion-houſe of Glentirran. The remains of it were ſeen within theſe few years. It is ſaid to have been built for the accommodation of the pariſhes of Gargunnock and Kippen, in conſequence of the indulgence granted by King James. A Mr Barclay then officiated as miniſter.—In former times, the highland

* Many particulars reſpecting this worthy gentleman, are recorded by Mr Wodrow, in his Hiſtory of the ſufferings of the Church of Scotland; ſee eſpecially, Vol. ii. page 260.

† Wodrow's Hiſtory, Vol. i. page 416.

clans, which were ſituated on the borders of the low country, were accuſtomed to ſubſiſt in a great meaſure, by rapine and plunder. In the year 1691, a party of theſe free-booters viſited this pariſh, to the great terror and loſs of the country. They were commanded by old *Rob Roy*, a robber by profeſſion, who pretended to have a commiſſion from King James "to plunder the rebel whigs." The peaceable inhabitants were obliged to flee for their ſafety, and leave their property to the rapacity of this banditti, who ſeized upon cattle, victual, furniture, &c. and carried away as much as they were able. Only one man, ſervant to Sir James Livingſton, was killed upon that occaſion. This act of depredation was remembered by the fathers of ſeveral perſons ſtill living, and is known by the name of the *herriſhip* * of Kippen.—In the year 1745, the rebel army paſſed the Forth by the ford of Frew on their way to Stirling. The inhabitants were obliged to furniſh proviſions for the ſupply of their immediate neceſſities; but their march was not marked by any other acts of violence.

Population.—It is probable, that the pariſh of Kippen was more populous in former times, than it is at preſent. The enlargement of the farms, neceſſarily occaſioned the fall of the cotteries, which afforded ſubſiſtence to many families. In conſequence of the encouragement offered by the manufacturing companies, lately eſtabliſhed at Balfron, many families as well as individuals have removed to that village. A conſiderable decreaſe has taken place within theſe laſt 10 years.

In 1755, the number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webſter's account, amounted to

In

* From the Scots word *herry*, to rob or plunder.

In 1764, the number of examinable perſons, is ſtated to have been 1450, which is nearly the ſame as at preſent.

In 1783, the number of families was 446; of ſouls 1940.

In 1793, the number of families was 399.

——— Males 847, females 930; in all 1777 ſouls.

Under 10 years,	343	From 40 to 50,	180	
From 10 to 20,	399	From 50 to 60,	145	
From 20 to 30,	325	From 60 to 70,	128	
From 30 to 40,	190	From 70 to 80,	48	
	———	From 80 to 90,	19	
	1257		———	
			520	Total 1777.

Diſtinguiſhed according to their Religious Perſuaſions.

Of the Eſtabliſhed Church, - -	1266
Antiburgher Seceders, - -	491
Burgher, do. - - -	4
Cameronians, - - -	13
Epiſcopalians, - - -	3
	———
	1777

Table

Table of Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials in this Pariſh, for the following years.

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Baptiſms.*			*Burials.*			
		Males.	Fem.	Total.	Years.	Males.	Fem.	Tot.
From 1700 to 1709 incluſ.	104	229	194	423	1783	3	4	7
1710—1719	170	193	214	407	1784	12	7	19
1720—1729 -	183	194	167	361	1785	14	14	28
1730—1739	188	293	251	544	1786	8	2	10
1740—1749 *		199	178	377	1787	22	10	32
1750—1759 - -		229	160	389	1788	18	16	34
1760—1769 -	158	242	272	514	1789	8	6	14
1770—1779	172	271	237	508	1790	4	10	14
1780—1789 -	161	242	238	480	1791	8	14	22
1790	18	23	22	45	1792	7	10	17
1791 - -	11	19	18	37				
1792 - -	15	20	23	43				

In 1792-3, there were in the pariſh of Kippen, 24 heritors, of whom the greater part do not reſide in the pariſh; 1 eſtabliſhed miniſter, 1 antiburgher miniſter, 1 phyſician, 1 writer, 2 ſchoolmaſters, 100 farmers, 88 farming men ſervants, 8 millers, 6 maltmen, 4 licenſed diſtillers, 1 exciſe officer, 10 merchants, 37 weavers, 5 journeymen do. 14 apprentices, 1 ſtocking weaver, 8 wrights, 3 do. journeymen, 6 do. apprentices, 2 wheelwrights, 4 hecklers, 6 maſons, 1 do. apprentice, 10 ſhoemakers, 2 journeymen do. 2 do. apprentices, 1 ſaddler, 1 journeyman do. 2 tanners, 1 journeyman do. 4 coopers, 14 taylors, 2 journeymen do. 2 do. apprentices, 8 ſmiths, 2 do. apprentices, 1 dyer, 1 baker, 2 butchers,

* Chaſm in the regiſter of Marriages from 1745 to 1758; and the regiſter of Baptiſms ſeems to have been irregularly kept during the greater part of that period.

chers, 8 publicans, 7 carters, 4 ſheriff-officers, 47 day labourers.

Pariſh Regiſter,—There are no records extant previous to the commencement of the preſent century. From 1700 to 1745, the regiſter of marriages and baptiſms appears to have been kept with conſiderable accuracy. For the 12 following years, the regiſter of marriages ſeems to have been entirely neglected. From that period too, many parents who had joined the ſeceſſion, neglected to get their children's names enrolled in the pariſh regiſter. For this reaſon, the regiſter, eſpecially of baptiſms, cannot be conſidered as exhibiting a complete enumeration of the children born in the pariſh from that time downward *. It may alſo be obſerved, that as the names of parties enrolled with a view to proclamation of banns, when they happen to reſide in different pariſhes, are regiſtered in both the pariſhes to which they ſeverally belong; this circumſtance muſt make the number of marriages appear greater than it is in reality. And therefore in calculating the whole population of Scotland, ſo far as regard is had to the authority of parochial regiſters, it may be laid down as a maxim, that the number of marriages will upon the whole exceed, and that of baptiſms fall ſhort of the truth. In this, as well as in moſt country pariſhes, no account of burials was kept till within theſe few years; nor can the regiſter of theſe be conſidered as perfectly accurate.

Climate, Health, Diſeaſes.—The climate is wet, on account, probably, of the vicinity of the hills, and the prevalence of weſterly winds. A regiſter of the weather was kept for many years

* Of late years, care has been taken to render the regiſter of baptiſms more complete than formerly.

years by Dr Leckie, a gentleman of intelligence and obſervation in this pariſh, but he found "only a ſeries of capricious "changes, incapable of being claſſed or connected, ſo as to "form any uſeful rule, or any obſervations on the weather "or ſeaſons that can be depended upon in this country." The climate though wet, does not appear to be unhealthy, which may be attributed perhaps to the frequency of high winds, which prevent the vapours from becoming ſtagnant. The number of aged perſons at preſent in the pariſh appears from the preceding tables; within the few laſt years, two perſons have died near the age of 100.—A pleaſant and uncommon ſpectacle of health and induſtry is ſeen in this village; an old man, his ſon, and grandſon, all ſmiths, of one name, dwelling in the houſe in which they were born, and continuing to follow their occupation in the ſame ſhop from day to day. The inhabitants of this part of county are not ſubject to any diſeaſe that can be conſidered as peculiar to the climate. The ague is ſaid in former times to have prevailed in the carſe. It is now extremely rare, at leaſt in the pariſh of Kippen. Epidemical diſeaſes are not frequent. In the ſpring months of years 1785 and 1787, a pleuretic fever prevailed, which carried off a number of people. The year 1788 was fatal to ſome old people and children. Of the uncommon mortality in theſe years, the openneſs of the preceding winters cannot properly be aſſigned as the cauſe; for they were not more open, perhaps leſs ſo, than ſeveral ſucceeding ſeaſons which were accompanied with no ſuch conſequences. The ſmall-pox and meaſles are ſometimes fatal to children. Inoculation is rather gaining ground, though ſlowly. It is ſurpriſing that any prejudice ſhould remain againſt a practice, which experience hath proved to be ſo ſalatary. Dr Leckie, (whoſe practice both in this country and the Weſt Indies, has been very extenſive,) declares, "that only two of all thoſe

« whom he has inoculated died of the ſmall-pox : the one « of theſe was taken ill with them within 24 hours after be- « ing inoculated ; the other in leſs than 3 days. He has re- « ſided above 40 years in Kippen, and inoculated above 20 « yearly at an average".

Remarkable Medical Caſe.—It may not be improper in this place to mention the remarkable caſe of a boy who loſt a conſiderable portion of brain, and yet recovered, without detriment to any faculty mental or corporeal. On the 1ſt of July 1792, William Stewart, a ſervant boy, about 14 years of age, was by a blow from the foot of a horſe knocked to the ground, and left in a ſtate of inſenſibility. From a large wound on the right ſide of his fore-head, blood iſſued in conſiderable quantities, as well as at different times, a conſiderable portion of the ſubſtance of the brain. The boy not only ſurvived the accident, but recovered, and was ſeen perfectly well, by the writer of this account in the month of November following. A diſtinct account of this caſe, and of the whole proceſs of the cure, was publiſhed by Mr Robert Leny, a young gentleman, practitioner in phyſic, which deſerves the attention of thoſe who are curious in phyſiology. It is inſerted in the Medical Commentaries, publiſhed by Dr Duncan of Edinburgh, for 1793, p. 301.

Church, Manſe, &c.—The church is ſaid to have been built or rebuilt in 1691. The eaſter part of it was rebuilt in 1737. It was completely repaired in 1779, and is now a very decent and commodious place of worſhip.—William Leckie of Daſher made a preſent of a very good bell to the pariſh.—The preſent manſe was built in 1706. The ſtipend by the laſt decreet of augmentation in 1763 is nearly 89 bolls of meal, together with L. 34 : 3 : 4 ſter. which ſum includes the

ordinary allowances for communion elements, and graſs mail, —James Erſkine Eſq. of Cardroſs is patron. Were all patrons, in the diſpoſal of vacant benefices, to ſhew the ſame regard to the wiſhes of the pariſhioners which this gentleman has uniformly done, the practical evils which have often been complained of as reſulting from the exerciſe of patronage, would not be felt.

Meeting-houſe.—A meeting-houſe in connection with the Antiburgher ſeceders was built at Buchlyvie in 1751. The miniſter has L. 50 ſter. as ſtipend, ariſing from the ſeat rents, with a houſe and garden. The congregation is gathered from the ſeveral contiguous pariſhes. The members of the ſeceſſion have laid aſide much of that moroſeneſs and acrimony which diſtinguiſhed their predeceſſors, and in general maintain good neighbourhood with their brethren of the eſtabliſhed church. There is a burying place connected with the meeting-houſe.

School.—It muſt be obvious that one parochial ſchool is entirely inadequate to the extent and populouſneſs of this pariſh. To remedy this inconvenience, various plans have been at different times propoſed. It has long been found abſolutely neceſſary to have another ſchool at the weſt end of the pariſh. But the heritors felt reluctance to impoſe upon themſelves the burden of two parochial ſchools. A ſchoolmaſter who was admitted in 1752 was taken bound to provide at his own charge two teachers, the one at Buchlyvie, the other at the burn of Arnprior, for ſix months in the year; or to have 50 merks retained from his ſalary, which was then L. 100 Scots. It was afterwards propoſed to remove the parochial ſchool to a convenient ſituation in the center of the pariſh, and to have only one teacher. At laſt it was determined

mined in 1763 to have two eſtabliſhed ſchools; the ſalary was advanced to L. 115 Scots, of which L. 75 is allotted to the ſchoolmaſter at Kippen, the remaining L. 40 to the other teacher. In the year 1782 a ſchoolhouſe, including a dwelling-houſe for the maſter, was built at Claymires. It is in ſufficient repair and tolerably commodious. The ſchoolmaſter at Kippen is but indifferently accommodated. In former times, a houſe was occaſionally rented for the ſchool, and the maſter was ſeldom accommodated with a dwelling-houſe. The ſchool was held in the church for ſome time previous to its reparation in 1779. Since that time a houſe has been rented, on a long leaſe, for a ſchool-houſe, and dwelling-houſe for the maſter; neither of which, however, are very commodious.——In the ſchool at Kippen, are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Latin, and church muſic. The whole emoluments of the ſchoolmaſter, including his ſalary and fees as ſeſſion clerk, may amount annually to L. 25 or L. 30 ſterling *. As the diſtance from the two eſtabliſhed ſchools is more than 4 miles, the inhabitants of the intermediate diſtrict find it convenient to employ a teacher during the winter months to inſtruct younger children in the elements of reading and writing. The number of ſcholars laſt winter, when the ſchools were moſt frequent, was at Kippen 60, at Arnprior 36, at Claymires 64.

Poor.—The funds for ſupply of the poor in this pariſh ariſe, from the weekly collections, dues from marriages, from the mortcloth, occaſional fines from delinquents, together with L. 13; 10, the intereſt at 4½ per cent of L. 300 ſter. which at

* An addition of two guineas per ann. has been lately made to the ſchoolmaſter, for keeping the record of the meetings of heritors.

different periods has been mortified by individuals for behoof of the poor of the pariſh. Of this ſum 2000 merks, or L. 111 : 2 : $2\frac{8}{12}$ ſter. was mortified by the late Walter M'Lachlan of Weſter Colbowie, the intereſt of which in terms of his will muſt be diſtributed among the poor in Buchlyvie. The half of this ſum was left to the diſpoſal of the aſſociate ſeſſion at Buchlyvie, whoſe intromiſſions were to be ſubject to the review of the kirk-ſeſſion of Kippen; but they declining to accept of the management on theſe conditions, the whole was given to the kirk ſeſſion of Kippen. On this account a ſeparate book is kept for recording the diſtributions that are made to the poor in the barony of Buchlyvie.——The annual amount of the funds muſt neceſſarily vary. From L. 40 to L. 50 is diſtributed every year. The number of the poor is alſo variable. In 1792 the number of ordinary penſioners on the liſt was generally 22, who received in different ſums, according to their neceſſities, the higheſt L. 2 : 7, the loweſt 9s. or 10s. in the courſe of the year. Beſides the ſtated diſtributions, occaſional ſupply is alſo granted to perſons who ſuffer from temporary diſtreſs.—In 1782 the heritors bought, and diſtributed a quantity of oatmeal to the moſt neceſſitous, below the market price. With a view to prevent improper applications, it has ſometimes been required that thoſe who receive ſupply, ſhould aſſign to the ſeſſion for behoof of the poor all the property they may die poſſeſſed of, after the houſe rent and funeral charges are paid. But the neceſſity of this meaſure is not very urgent, whilſt the poor in general diſcover ſo much reluctance to accept of public charity.—The funds are managed by the kirk-ſeſſion, who keep regular accounts of their intromiſſions; theſe are occaſionally reviſed and homologated by the heritors.——Objections have ſometimes been made to the payment of the ſalaries of the preſbytery clerk and officer, and of the ſynod clerk, which altogether amount

mount to 11s. 2d. per ann. from this parish. Were any other fund provided for payment of these salaries, the alteration would undoubtedly be proper, and credit would then be given to the liberality of those who brought it forward. But on what principle of justice, it should be attempted to devolve this burden on the clergy, it is surely difficult to discover. — On the whole, it is believed that no better plan can be devised for taking care of the poor, than that which is generally practised throughout Scotland. And whilst the members of kirk-sessions continue to act with fidelity and prudence, their gratuitous performance of a service, which is accompanied with considerable trouble, undoubtedly entitles them to the gratitude and support of their country.

Villages.—The village of Kippen stands about a mile distant from the eastern boundary of the parish, and contains 76 families. Buchlyvie, which is 5 miles farther west, is a larger village, and contains 102 families. The greater part of the inhabitants of both these villages consists of labourers and trades people of different descriptions. There are several merchants also, who supply us not only with rye grass, clover, lint seed, and wool, but with most articles of personal and domestic consumpt.

Fairs and Markets.—Five fairs are held in the village of Kippen, and as many in Buchlyvie in the course of the year. Besides which, there is a weekly market in Kippen, in each Wednesday, for 3 or 4 weeks, in the month of December. By an Act of the Parliament of Scotland *, June 15th 1686; William Leckie then proprietor of the barony of Dasher or Deshoar,

* The original extract of the act, signed by Lord Tarbat, then Lord Clerk Register, is in the possession of Mr Graham of Gartmore.

Deſhoar, and his ſucceſſors, are authorized to keep 3 free fairs in the year, at certain times which are ſpecified, each to continue 3 days; and alſo a weekly market every Wedneſday, to be holden on the Caſtle-hill of Daſher, on which part of the village of Kippen now ſtands. Two of theſe fairs ſtill remain. That which was appointed to be held in the month of September, has been long diſuſed, as alſo the weekly market; if indeed it was ever obſerved at all. The weekly markets in December are probably all that remains of it.

Prices of Labour, &c.—It muſt be of uſe to record the price of labour, and of the proviſions and various commodities which are produced and conſumed in a country, as no circumſtance tends more to aſcertain its relative ſituation with reſpect to other countries, and to itſelf, both in former and ſubſequent times.—About 40 years ago the wages of men-ſervants were about L. 2, of women from 15s to 16s 8d a-year, with bounties. Thoſe who were careful ſaved moſt of their wages, as the bounties were ſufficient to furniſh them with cloaths. About 30 years ago, wages had gradually advanced, men's to L. 5 or L. 6, women's to L. 1 : 15 or L. 2 : 5. Bounties are now generally aboliſhed, and in 1793, from L. 7 to L. 9, were given to men, from L. 2 : 10 to L. 3 : 10, to women.—In harveſt, as there is no weekly market, reapers are generally hired by the ſeaſon. Before 1760 men received from 13s 4d to 16s 8d, women from 10s to 13s 4d; and in 1793 men received 30s, women 20s.—Before 1760, the wages of taylors and day-labourers, was 4d a-day, with victuals; 6d was given in 1783, and 10d in 1793. Carpenters and maſons about 30 years ago, got 6d a-day, with victuals; in 1793, they received 1s 2d. Formerly, ſmiths were paid by the farmers with grain, for ſerving them in work through

through the year; they are now paid for the piece of work, at certain fixed rates. Within theſe 10 or 12 years, a conſiderable riſe has taken place, on moſt of the articles of living. The following table, ſhews the prices of a few of the moſt common articles at different periods.

	In 1763.	*In* 1783.	*In* 1793.
Butter per lib. Dutch weight, -	4d or 4d½	6d or 7d	9d or 9d½
Cheeſe, do.	1½	2d	2d½ or 3d
A hen, -	4d to 6d	8d	10d or 1s
Eggs per doz.	1½	2d	3d

Mutton, veal and lamb, were formerly ſold without being weighed at ſo much per quarter; they are now ſold by weight, and regulated by the Stirling market, which is generally 3d or 3d½ per lib. Dutch weight. Beef is ſeldom killed except about Martinmaſs, and is ſold for 4s or 4s 6d per ſtone. It is hardly neceſſary to take notice of the prices of grain, which are perpetually varying. It may ſuffice to mention oat-meal, which in ſummer 1783 ſold at 22s per boll; it had not reached near that price, ſince the year 1757; in 1785, it fell ſo low as 13s 4d or 12s 6d; but 15s or 16s, may be conſidered as its price on an average.

Manufactures.—This pariſh does not admit of any eſtabliſhments in the cotton-manufactory, as no ſituation could be found, commanding at all times a plentiful ſupply of water. Yet ſome branches of manufacture in ſome degree reach even to us. In the village of Kippen 25 or 30 young girls, under the inſpection of a miſtreſs, are employed by a company in Glaſgow in tambouring muſlins. In Buchlyvie, ſome of the newly invented jennies for ſpinning cotton have been

ſet up by a company in Balfron. And in both villages, as well as through the pariſh, a conſiderable number of weavers has been employed by ſeveral companies in weaving muſlins*.—Such inſtitutions not only give bread at preſent to many individuals and families, but muſt in time excite a general ſpirit of induſtry and enterprize amongſt our people.—In Buchlyvie there is a tan-work, conſiſting of 16 or 20 pools; and in another place ſheep ſkins are tanned to a ſmall extent.—Before the commencement of the preſent diſtillery act in 1793, there were 4 diſtillers of whiſky in the pariſh, who carried on an advantageous trade, as they ſtood on the north ſide of the line fixed by the former act, to ſeparate the highlands from the low country. By the preſent act a change of line has taken place, by which this pariſh is thrown on the ſouth ſide, and thus cut off from the benefits of the highland diſtrict. Since December 1793, there is but one diſtillery of the ſize required by law, which furniſhes the country with whiſky, and produces a very conſiderable revenue to government. Including the licence and duty on malt, the proprietor pays about L. 1200 ſterling annually to the exciſe.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—There are in all 24 heritors. Of theſe 6 are feuars or portioners, not including the ſmall feuars in the villages. Robert Graham Eſq. of Gartmore is the principal heritor; there are 9 who reſide in the pariſh. Excepting two or three eſtates, the whole property in the pariſh has been changed within theſe 50 or 60 years. The valued rent amounts to L. 5185:8:8, Scots. The preſent real rent, may

* Since this article was firſt written, theſe branches of manufacture have ſuffered ſome interruption, in conſequence of the late ſtagnation of trade. This however, it is hoped, will prove but temporary.

may be eſtimated at L. 4000 ſterling. The rents are generally paid partly in money and partly in victual. Moſt of the landlords require alſo kain of fowls, certain carriages of victual or coal; and thoſe who reſide in the pariſh, a certain number of days labour in the moſs when caſting peats; all which it would be better to aboliſh, and take the value in grain or money at a reaſonable converſion. Thirlage is generally aboliſhed; in ſome inſtances however it ſtill remains. This inſtitution marks a remote period of ſociety, and the remains of it greatly retard improvement.

Land and Produce.—The quantity of land in this pariſh cannot eaſily be aſcertained. According to the moſt probable conjecture, the carſe may be ſuppoſed to contain 1200 acres of arable land, and about 300 of moſs; the dryfield about 5000 acres of arable and paſture land, and about 1500 or 2000 of moor. Land in the carſe is worth from 15s to 20s; in the dryfield, from 5s to 25s per acre. Oats, and barley or bear, form the ſtaple produce of this pariſh. Oatmeal in conſiderable quantities is exported to the weſt highlands, the printfields on the water of Leven, the Dunbarton, and the Glaſgow markets. The barley is purchaſed by the diſtiller and the malt men in the pariſh; by the latter, malt in conſiderable quantities is exported to the highlands. Much more barley than grows in the pariſh, perhaps double the quantity, is purchaſed by them. Some wheat is ſown in the carſes, very little in the dryfield; the wetneſs and lateneſs of our climate is peculiarly unfavourable to the cultivation of this kind of grain. Peaſe are ſown in the dryfield, and beans in the carſe. Moſt farmers raiſe as much flax as ſupplies their own families with that uſeful article, but none for the market. The ſame thing may be affirmed with reſpect to potatoes. Very few turnips are ſown.—In the carſe, a kind of

white ſaugh grows to a conſiderable ſize. It will grow to the thickneſs of a foot in diameter in the ſpace of 20 years, and is peculiarly uſeful for farming utenſils and machinery.

Cattle and Carriages.—The number of horſes is ſuppoſed to be about 360, of which the greater part has been reared in the pariſh.—The number of cows is about 1600; about 180 or 200 are annually bought and ſold; the remainder conſiſts of milk cows and young ſtock.—Formerly every farmer kept a number of ſheep, but ſince the farms have been incloſed this practice has been diſcontinued. The number at preſent in the pariſh will not exceed 8 or 10 ſcore.—There are about 165 ploughs, 285 carts, and 3 two-wheeled chaiſes.

Agriculture.—The ancient mode of huſbandry which prevailed throughout Scotland, was alſo practiſed in this pariſh. No attempts to improve it ſeem to have taken place before the middle of the preſent century. A few incloſures were made about 40 years ago. But any improvements of conſequence, have all been introduced ſince the military road from Stirling to Dunbarton was completed. Since that period a very conſiderable change has taken place. Moſt of the lands in the pariſh are incloſed with ſtone dykes or thorn hedges. A good deal of lime is every year laid upon the fields. And a general ſpirit of induſtry has been excited, which promiſes in time greatly to improve the agriculture of the country.

The wetneſs of the climate is a great diſadvantage. This not only injures the crops, but renders our ſeaſons generally late. We are upon the whole three weeks later than East-Lothian, and often a fortnight later than our neighbours in the vicinity of Stirling. Seldom does the ſeed labour begin before the middle of March, and not unfrequently the end of that

that month approaches, before the fields are dry enough for the plough. In the year 1789, the bear-ſeed was not finiſhed before the 8th June. So late a ſeaſon however was rather uncommon. Harveſt is ſeldom over before the middle or end of October, and corn is ſeen ſometimes ſtanding out even when the month of November is advanced. On account of the frequent rains, it is but ſeldom that any labour can be got forward after harveſt, or during the winter. The ſame circumſtance is alſo unfavourable to the practice of fallowing, which however is neglected in this country, more than is proper. It is indeed ſeldom or never attempted in the dryfield, and in the carſe but ſometimes, as a preparation for ſowing wheat.

The ſoil of the carſe has been already deſcribed. In the carſe farms, the infield or crofting grounds were formerly kept in a conſtant rotation of barley, oats, and beans. A great part of the infield carſe lands has been laboured in this way for time immemorial, without ever being paſtured or ſummer fallowed. The outfield was ſown with three crops of oats ſucceſſively, and then paſtured. Carting clay from the ditches and ends of ridges, and mixing it with dung and moſs, was thought to make excellent manure, though procured with great labour. This compoſt however is leſs uſed, and more lime is laid upon the grounds, ſince the practice of ſummer-fallowing and ſowing graſs-ſeeds was introduced. This is found to poſſeſs great advantages over the former mode of culture.

The whole dryfield of this pariſh lies upon a rock, which is immediately covered with a bed of till, and above this is the ſoil, which is of unequal depth, though generally ſhallow. Hence it is generally wet, as the water is not allowed to ſubſide. The ſoil immediately contiguous to the moor is moſſy and poor, but it becomes richer farther down the hill. The

crops on theſe high grounds are ſeldom adequate to the labour and expence beſtowed upon them. What ſhall we think of the ſituation of that land, and of thoſe who labour it, from which an increaſe in the proportion of 3 to 1 is reckoned an excellent crop? The inferiority of the oats and barley produced on ſuch grounds, is alſo experienced both at the mill and market. It would certainly be better if more of the higher part of the dryfield were thrown into graſs. If the tillage indeed were altogether abandoned, theſe lands in a ſhort time would be overgrown with heath or broom. But this might eaſily be prevented by occaſional cropping.

It would be a great improvement to drain thoſe fields which are moſt injured by water. In ſome places indeed the rock comes ſo near the ſurface, that ſuch a meaſure is impracticable. But in many places it might be adopted with great advantage. So extenſive an undertaking however could hardly be carried on by ordinary tenants on a 19 years leaſe. It would therefore be the intereſt of the proprietors to give them ſome proper encouragement. A laudable example of this kind is ſet by Mr Stirling of Garden, who agrees to be at the expence of caſting the ditches, and the tenants are bound to fill them up with ſtones. Wherever this improvement is attempted, care ſhould be taken that the ditches be of ſufficient depth. They ought to be 3 feet deep, and filled with ſtones as near the ſurface as that the plough cannot touch them.

Too little attention is paid in general, to a proper rotation of crops. The dryfield cannot well bear more than two white crops ſucceſſively. Thoſe therefore who go on to take three or four, certainly impoveriſh their grounds. A greater proportion of the farm ſhould be laid down in graſs, and other green crops occaſionally interpoſed. This will be more attended

tended to, as improvements in huſbandry advance amongſt us. Some of the more judicious farmers have begun to adopt this plan, and find their account in the change of their practice.

Turnips are but little cultivated in this part of the country. Experience however has ſhewn their utility in cleaning the ground, keeping it in good condition, and furniſhing manure; an object of great importance, where dung cannot be purchaſed. There can be no doubt that in many places of our dryfield, turnips might be cultivated with ſucceſs.

As our ſeaſons are generally late, the uſe of earlier ſorts of ſeed muſt appear an obvious advantage. The Eſſex oats and ſome other kinds have been tried. But the tendency of theſe to be ſhaken with the harveſt winds, has hitherto diſcouraged our farmers from making much uſe of them.

Several of the implements uſed in huſbandry would admit of improvement. The Scottiſh plough is generally uſed, but little attention is paid to its conſtruction. As thoſe prejudices againſt all innovations however proper, which diſtinguiſhed the ancient farmers of Scotland, are now wearing away, it is to be hoped, that all ſuch alterations as reaſon and experience prove to be uſeful, will in time be introduced. It is agreeable to obſerve that ſome ploughs of a better conſtruction have lately been procured; and within theſe two years, no leſs than 8 threſhing mills have been erected in the pariſh. Every corn mill has now a kiln contiguous to it; the kiln-heads are of caſt iron, which occaſion a conſiderable ſaving in reſpect of ſtraw and fuel. The oats are dried in much leſs time, and the meal produced is equally good as by the ancient method. Formerly almoſt every farmer was accuſtomed to have a kiln of his own, which not only required frequent reparations, but was extremely liable to accidents by fire.

A better method of ploughing, than that which the old far-

mers practiſed is now generally adopted; fewer horſes are employed, and in ſome inſtances without a goadman.

The ploughing matches that have been inſtituted in different parts of the country, have been accompanied with very good effects. A plan of this kind has once and again been attempted here. Under the patronage of a number of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, a ploughing match took place on the 22d March 1794, at which 17 ploughs ſtarted, and about L. 12 ſter. was diſtributed in different ſums to the 7 beſt ploughmen, and a ſmall gratuity to the reſt. Such well-judged encouragement muſt ſtimulate our farming ſervants to excel in this important part of practical huſbandry.

Diſadvantages; and Projected Improvements.—The want of coal is one principal diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours. We have none nearer than Bannockburn and Auchenbowie, either of which is at leaſt 12 miles from the village of Kippen. There ſeems reaſon to believe that coal may be found in the lands of Glinns and Balgair in this neighbourhood. Attempts for that purpoſe have repeatedly been made in theſe places, as well as in the lands of Buchlyvie, but hitherto without the ſucceſs that might be deſired. The acquiſition of coal ſo near would be of vaſt importance to this part of the country.

We have lime at no great diſtance, and even within the pariſh. As the limeſtone however contains a conſiderable portion of ſand, it is thought not to ſuit the dryfield ſo well, though proper for the carſe lands. But as the coal neceſſary to burn it cannot be procured but at great expence and trouble, moſt farmers, eſpecially in the middle, and eaſt end of the pariſh, find it more for their advantage to drive lime from Stirling ſhore, to which it is brought up the Forth from the Earl of Elgin's lime works; or from the eſtates of Sauchie and Murrayshall,

Murrayshall, about 12 miles from the village. This limeſtone being of a richer quality than that which is nearer us, is found peculiarly ſuitable for the dryfield. The ſhells coſt 8s. 6d. or 9s. per chalder at the kiln.

The pariſh of Kippen raiſes much more grain than is neceſſary for its own conſumpt, but lies far from a good market. Stirling is abundantly ſupplied from its own immediate vicinity, and both Glaſgow and Dunbarton are 24 miles from the village. This diſadvantage might be alleviated by making good roads. The road from Kippen to Glaſgow by Campſie moor, was formerly extremely bad, and often impaſſable in winter. In 1792 it was made turnpike, and the courſe of it in ſeveral places altered with advantage. A bill has lately received the ſanction of parliament for making the military road turnpike likewiſe. As theſe two great roads interſect each other at the village of Kippen, the effects of this undertaking muſt be extremely favourable to this neighbourhood, as well as convenient for the public in general, by opening the communication between the northern and ſouthern parts of the country.

It is the opinion of many of the graziers and dealers in cattle, that Kippen is one of the moſt convenient places, perhaps, in Scotland for a cattle market; and that in the late fluctuating ſtate of the tryſts, it might not have been difficult to transfer to it a great part of the ſpring and autumn markets. There is a ſpacious moor near the village which lies very convenient for that purpoſe. With a view to encourage their reſort to it, Mr Graham of Gartmore, the proprietor, offered it to the dealers in cattle free of cuſtom for 19 years.

It is alſo believed that the eſtabliſhment of a corn market once a week at Kippen might prove very beneficial; as alſo a weekly market in the time of harveſt for hiring

hiring ſhearers. Both of theſe objects ſeemed in a fair way of taking place a few years ago; the deſign however was afterwards dropped *.

When the ſcheme of joining the rivers Forth and Clyde by a navigable canal was firſt projected, it was doubted which of the two was the preferable courſe, viz. the ſouthern track, nearly the ſame with what was actually adopted; or "the "other, by following the river Forth for ſome miles above "Stirling, and then croſſing over by the bog of Bolatt into "the water of Endrick, down to Loch Lomond, and from "thence by the river Leven into the Clyde at Dunbarton †." Though this plan was rejected, yet it deſerves the conſideration of all the proprietors on both ſides of the Forth, whether it might be proper to have that river rendered navigable as far up as Gartmore. It appears from Mr Smeaton's report, that this is not only a practicable undertaking, but might be executed at no great expence. "Two locks and one dam "would make an open navigation from Gartmore to the "Frith of Forth, at all ſeaſons of the year; and was there "any trade of conſequence up this extenſive valley, would "be worth the while, independent of a navigable commu-"nication between the two ſeas. One lock ought to be placed "oppoſite Craigforth mill, and the lock and dam at the ford "of Frew. This with a little clearance of the ſhoal at Car-"droſs, would make a navigable paſſage over the ſame ‡." The advantages reſulting from ſuch a plan, in furniſhing us with coal, lime, &c. in opening new markets for our grain, and

* A freſh attempt to eſtabliſh a weekly corn market at Kippen, was made ſince this account was written, in ſpring and ſummer 1795, not without the proſpect of ſucceſs.

† Mr Smeaton's report, in Scots magazine for 1767, p. 177.

‡ Ibid. p. 180.

and consequently in raising the value of landed property in this part of the country, are so apparent that they do not need to be pointed out.

The moor on the summit of the hill might better be disposed of in planting. A quantity of waste and barren land in Glentirran moor, has within these few years been divided into small lots, and feued off to a number of people, each of whom builds a house on his feu and improves the ground. This land till lately was of very little value; it now brings 20s. per acre to the proprietor, Mr Graham of Gartmore. It is not every situation however that admits of this improvement. Part of the same moor has lately been cultivated by General Campbell, whose extensive improvements on the estate of Boquhan are highly beneficial and ornamental to the country.

Character of the People.—The great body of the people in this parish is entitled to the praise of sobriety. There are few instances amongst us of notorious profligacy. By means of industry and œconomy, they in general obtain a comfortable subsistence, and some individuals have raised themselves to opulence.——The same changes with respect to dress and manner of living, are observed here of late years as in other places.

General Reflections on the State of Society.—It seems not unreasonable to apprehend, that such a state of society as appears at present in the parish of Kippen, and other places whose circumstances are similar, is as favourable to happiness as the course of human affairs can ordinarily admit. In a country where improvements are altogether unknown, much happiness cannot be enjoyed; for there the necessaries of life are procured with difficulty, or, if they are easily procured, little

ſcope is afforded for active exertion. On the other hand, where improvements in agriculture and the arts have been brought to a high degree of perfection, luxury and other evils accompany them, which are no leſs unfriendly than poverty and indolence to the happineſs of man. It is in ſome intermediate ſtate, where improvements have begun, and are ſtill advancing, that the circumſtances of ſociety appear moſt calculated to promote the comfort of human life. Such, it is conceived, is the caſe with reſpect to this neighbourhood, and many other places in Scotland whoſe ſituation is the ſame with ours. The truth of this aſſertion will be manifeſt, if we take a comparative view of ſeveral ſtates of ſociety, which are known to have exiſted, or do ſtill exiſt in Scotland.

It is unneceſſary to dwell on thoſe remote periods, when a ſpirit of ferocity and warlike manners prevailed. Surely there could be little happineſs where there was little property, and that which men poſſeſſed was inſecure.

If we look back only to a generation or two, and reflect on the ſtate of the country in the former part of the preſent century, or ſurvey thoſe places, where the recent improvements in huſbandry have not yet been introduced, a ſtate of ſociety is exhibited that cannot be gratifying to a lover of mankind. The lands, ſterile from want of culture, requite their penurious poſſeſſors with penury. Life is indeed protracted, though few of its comforts are enjoyed. Men ſeem patient in enduring hardſhip, but averſe from labour. Strangers to enterprize, the powers of their minds ruſt through mere diſuſe. A harmleſs, torpid race, who might be ſaid to ſleep rather than to live. The farms generally ſmall, juſt enabled them to maintain their families and pay the landlord, but held out few inducements to ſtimulate exertion.

In the ſouthern parts of Scotland as well as in England, where

where agriculture ſeems to be brought to the higheſt ſtate of improvement, we ſee extenſive farms in the poſſeſſion of tenants who appear as gentlemen, and are able to live in affluence and ſplendour. Experience however undeniably proves that thoſe ſituations in life which admit of luxury, are unfavourable to happineſs. And in theſe places the diſtance between maſter and ſervant is ſo very great, that though the latter may enjoy a preſent ſubſiſtence, yet he can have little or no hope of bettering his circumſtances to ſuch a degree, as to riſe to independence, and obtain poſſeſſion of a farm himſelf. Such extenſive farms are alſo unfavourable to the population of the country.

Let us next attend to thoſe places where manufactures have been introduced. There the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life are procured with facility. Abundant ſcope is given to exertion. And riches pour on all who are willing to labour. But theſe diſproportioned rewards of labour generally tend to enervate the ſinews of induſtry, foſter idleneſs, introduce a total relaxation of morals, and conſequently lead to poverty and wretchedneſs *. Population indeed appears to increaſe with rapidity; but its progreſs is arreſted by diſeaſe, which ſeems to fix its abode in thoſe extenſive work-houſes that are employed in manufactures. In the cotton-works particularly, children become able to ſupport themſelves almoſt as ſoon as they are able to ſpeak or walk. But their wan and ſickly aſpect, occaſioned by conſtant confinement; and their unacquaintance with the ſentiments of religion and morality, ariſing from the want of proper education, and the early infection

* It is well known that comparatively few operative manufacturers riſe to opulence. Their money is diſſipated as faſt as it is gained. Hence the wretchedneſs of ſuch multitudes of this deſcription, in conſequence of the late ſtagnation of trade.

of evil company, do much more than counterbalance the profits of infant labour. If ſuch children live till they become parents, what hopes do they afford reſpecting the next generation? By the wiſe and humane exertions of ſome benevolent individuals, theſe evils may be partially prevented or alleviated; but a general care to guard againſt them is more than can reaſonably be expected. To all which it may be added, that the facility with which money is procured by the lower ranks, tends to generate a ſpirit unſuited to their condition in life, unfriendly to ſubordination, and menacing eventually the order and peace of ſociety.

Now if we direct our view to ſuch a ſtate of ſociety as takes place at preſent in this pariſh, and in other places which have reached the ſame degree of improvement, a variety of circumſtances will appear which combine to promote the felicity of human life. The farms are not too extenſive, and yet ſufficiently large to offer abundant ſcope to exertion. A comfortable ſubſiſtence is within the reach of every perſon who is able, and who chooſes to labour. Perſevering induſtry and enterpriſe are crowned with liberal rewards. Not a few of our moſt reſpectable farmers were once ſervants, and are now equal, perhaps ſuperior in fortune, to the maſters whom they ſerved. One man might be mentioned, who began the world with nothing, and, by farming only, reared a numerous family, and lately purchaſed an eſtate in the pariſh for which he paid 1500 guineas. The trades people in the villages live more comfortably than thoſe of the ſame rank in great towns. Almoſt every family of this deſcription has a kail-yard, and keeps a cow; and thoſe who are able to get a few acres of land find this a great advantage. Occaſional attention to their land forms an agreeable and uſeful relaxation from the ſedentary life of a handicraft, and ſupplies the family with meal and potatoes, and winter proviſion for the cow. Though our ſituation

tion does not admit of eſtabliſhments in manufactures, we are not altogether excluded from a ſhare of the benefits derived from them. The increaſing demand for grain, cattle, &c. is beneficial to the farmer; whilſt the ſmaller erections for ſpinning cotton, tambouring, and weaving muſlins, bring to us theſe manufactures, and the advantages reſulting from them, upon ſuch a ſcale as is not likely to produce any material injury to the health or morals of thoſe employed in them. At leaſt thoſe who have the ſuperintendence of ſuch ſmall manufacturing ſocieties, have it in their power to prevent or to correct abuſes, to a degree that is altogether impracticable in great towns, or larger eſtabliſhments of this kind.

Such are ſome of the advantages enjoyed by a country which hath emerged from the unprofitable indolence of former times, and in which improvements are ſtill advancing, though they have not yet arrived at that ultimate point of perfection to which they naturally tend.

The diſadvantages which accompany an advanced ſtate of ſociety, ſeem to render it no leſs unfriendly to human happineſs, than thoſe earlier ſtages in which improvements are but little known. To prevent or to correct theſe evils, is ſurely one of the nobleſt objects which can employ the exertions of politicians and philanthropiſts. To this deſireable end, the preſent ſtatiſtical inveſtigation of the kingdom, when completed, may be expected in a high degree to contribute. And the writer of this account will think himſelf happy, if theſe remarks ſhall lead the people in this part of the country, and others placed in ſimilar ſituations, to contentment with the lot that Divine Providence hath aſſigned to them, and animate them to a becoming uſe of thoſe advantages which they at preſent enjoy.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF DUDINGSTON.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BENNET.

Name, Situation and Extent.

DUDINGSTON is ſaid to be a name of Gaelic origin, and to ſignify the houſe on the ſunny ſide of the hill. However fanciful ſuch etymologies in general may be, the ſituation of the church correſponds in ſome ſenſe with this deſcription. It ſtands under the ſouth cope of Arthur's Seat, raiſed upon an eminence, which is embraced on the weſt and ſouth by the lake bearing the ſame name, and protected on the north by the mountain. The moſt beautiful and picturesque ſcenery expands before it, and on every ſide. The views which it commands include every object which the painter would ſelect to compoſe a rich or a finiſhed landſcape. Magnificent villas, towering caſtles, rich vallies, cultivated fields, woods, groves, ruins; the lake below, the bold precipices of Arthur's Seat behind; the hills of Pentland, Moorfoot, and Lammermoor, bounding the proſpect upon the weſt and ſouth; and the ſea ſinking in the diſtant horizon, upon

upon the eaſt. The diſtance of the village from the city of Edinburgh is little more than a mile; and the path that leads to it through the ſteep acclivities and chaſms of the hill, though formerly difficult to paſs, has yet proved ſufficiently alluring to induce many of its opulent citizens to reſort thither, in the ſummer months, to ſolace themſelves over one of the ancient homely diſhes of Scotland *, for which the place has been long celebrated; and, in winter, to attract crouds to witneſs or to partake of the amuſements of ſkating upon its lake. The pariſh itſelf is of an irregular form, which fancy might imagine to reſemble a wedge; and injudiciouſly, and very inconveniently, the church has been pitched near its ſharpeſt apex. It extends from weſt to eaſt four miles, and from north to ſouth from leſs than half a mile to more than two. Upon the ſouth it is bounded by part of the pariſhes of Invereſk and Liberton, upon the weſt and north by thoſe of St. Cuthbert's, Canongate, and South Leith, and upon the eaſt by the Frith of Forth.

Hiſtory, Villages, &c.——The original foundation of the church and erection of the pariſh cannot be traced. In the regiſter of aſſignations for the miniſters ſtipends in the year 1574, MSS. preſented by Biſhop Keith to the Advocates library, Dudingſton is ſaid to have been a joint dependance with the caſtle of Edinburgh upon the Abbey of Holyrood-houſe. The oldeſt records of the ſeſſion are only of the year 1631. In 1630 the lands of Preſtonfield were diſjoined from the kirk and pariſh of St. Cuthbert's, of which they had formed

* The uſe of ſinged ſheeps heads boiled or baked, ſo frequent in this village, is ſuppoſed to have ariſen from the practice of ſlaughtering the ſheep fed on the neighbouring hill for the market, removing the carcaſes to town, and leaving the head, &c. to be conſumed in the place.

formed a part, and annexed to the pariſh of Dudingſton. By an act of the preſbytery of Edinburgh, dated May 18th 1631, an ayſle was appointed to be added to the kirk of Dudingſton, for accommodation of the then proprietor of Preſtonfield and his tenants, to be built and ſupported at his expence. The barony of Dudingſton which comprehends the greateſt part of the whole pariſh, for a conſiderable period continued in the poſſeſſion of the family of Thomſon's, of whom Sir Thomas was created a Baronet by Charles I. 1637. It appears that the eſtate had fallen into the hands of the Duke of Lauderdale in 1674. It paſſed with a daughter of his firſt Ducheſs, under the name of pin-money to the family of Argyle, to the firſt Duke of which ſhe was married. In 1745 it was ſold by Archibald Duke of Argyle to the late Earl of Abercorn, uncle and predeceſſor to the Marquis, the preſent proprietor.

Weſter Dudingſton was once a large and populous village. Moſt of the tenants upon the barony reſided in it prior to the year 1751. Before the ſame period it furniſhed 36 horſes to carry coals in ſacks or creels to Edinburgh. About 40 years ago it ſupplied above 30 weavers looms. Theſe were chiefly employed in manufacturing a very coarſe flaxen ſtuff, then known by the name of Dudingſton hardings, which generally ſold for 3½d. to 4d. per yard. But the trade has declined; and there now remain but five weavers in the village. No place could be better adapted for ſome ſuch manufactory as this, from its acceſs to water, fuel, and the neceſſaries of life, as well as from its vicinity to Edinburgh. The late proprietor had it in contemplation to have rebuilt the place upon the model of a neat commodious Engliſh village, but from the interſection of feus, and the oppoſition of their poſſeſſors, he was obliged to deſiſt from the attempt. The houſes in conſequence, have been ſuffered to drop into ruin, and thoſe which

remain

are chiefly occupied by labouring people, whoſe wives, with ſome widows in the place, employ themſelves in waſhing linen, or carry milk to the inhabitants of the neighbouring city, for which their vicinity to the loch of Dudingſton, and to many old and excellent paſture fields, affords them the moſt convenient oportunities.——Formerly it is ſuppoſed to have contained above 500 inhabitants. At preſent the number does not exceed 200.

Eaſter Dudingſton has not varied ſo much in its ſize and population. It has lately been rebuilt in part, and the new houſes according to their original deſtination, are for the moſt part occupied by coalliers. Portobello and Brickfield, now the moſt populous and proſperous villages of the pariſh, are but of very recent origin and name. The grounds on which they are built is a part of the Figget lands, which altogether conſiſt of about 70 acres. Theſe continued down to the 1762 or 1763 a mere waſte, covered for the moſt part with furze or whins, and were commonly let to one of the Dudingſton tenants for 200 merks Scots, or L. 11 : 2: $2\frac{8}{11}$ ſter. In one or other of the above mentioned years, the lands of Figget were ſold for L. 1500 ſter. The purchaſer immediately began to improve his property, and in a few years parcelled it out into different feus at the rate of L. 2 : 2, and ſometimes even more, per acre. He ſoon indemnified himſelf for the expences of improvement with the crops he raiſed, and by the feu duties enſured an annual income of about 7 per cent. for the original price. Portobello hut was the firſt houſe raiſed in the midſt of the original waſte about the year 1742, and derived its title from the Spaniſh American city of that name, of the capture of which, the news had arrived in Britain about that period. Since the cultivation and improvements of the neighbouring ſoil, beſides the ordinary houſes required for the brick, pottery, and tile manufactures, a number of gay

or commodious dwellings have been erected by the feuers, either for their own accommodation or for bathing quarters, for which the agreeable ſoftneſs of the adjacent ſandy beach, the purity of the air, and the convenience of the Muſſelburgh or rather London poſt road form obvious recommendations.

Aſpect and Improvements of the Country, Surface, &c.—There is not a more highly cultivated ſpot in Scotland, nor one which more reſembles the rich champaign of England, than that which the general aſpect of this pariſh diſplays. But this has not been the caſe ſo long as the immediate neighbourhood of the Metropolis might have induced us to have imagined. The lands of Preſtonfield were the firſt that were improved in the pariſh, or probably in the county. The proprietor of that eſtate was Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, about the time of the Revolution in 1688. At that period, the fulzie or ſweepings, and manure from the ſtreets of the city was ſo little valued, or rather the proper uſe of it was ſo little underſtood, that inſtead of drawing revenue from it, a conſiderable ſum was paid to ſome of the farmers in the neighbourhood for removing it. The then proprietor of Preſtonfield, availed himſelf of the opportunity to enrich his eſtate. He undertook to empty or to ſcour the ſtreets; and he applied the manure thus obtained, to improve the lands of Preſtonfield. Theſe he laid down in the moſt favourable condition, incloſed and ſubdivided. And as it is believed, that theſe were the firſt incloſed lands in the vicinity of Edinburgh, ſo it is certain, they were the firſt improved. As they are beſides the oldeſt, ſo they are ſtill eſteemed the beſt graſs paſtures about the city, or perhaps any where elſe in Scotland. It was rather a matter of wonder, that ſuch an example was not immediately followed by many of the

neighbouring

neighbouring gentlemen, who muſt quickly have obſerved the ſingular benefit which reſulted from this experiment. The proſecution of ſuch improvements, however, at any diſtance from the city, might at that period have been much if not totally obſtructed, from the ſtate of the roads, which were generally ruinous, and often impaſſable in the winter ſeaſon. It might ariſe partly from this circumſtance, which formed alſo another obſtacle to cultivation; that it was not till after the year 1750, that carts came to be in general uſe; at leaſt to the weſt of Edinburgh, though they had been long employed upon the eaſt ſide, the conveyance of all materials having been before that period, in ſacks, hurdles or creels, upon the backs of horſes. About 1730, the offals and manure of the ſtreets of Edinburgh ſold at 2d per cart: At preſent, the cart load in ſome circumſtances ſells at 1s 6d, or upwards; though in moſt caſes, the ſtreets and other ſources of ſuch unſightly treaſures, are let by general or extenſive contracts.

The eſtate of Dudingſton, was much later in undergoing any effective improvement. The tenants originally poſſeſſed their lands in run-ridge or run-dale; and in each of the villages of Weſter and Eaſter Dudingſton in which they reſided, they had acceſs to a common, upon which they paſtured their ſheep, horſes, and other cattle, which were kept by a common herd. It is ſomewhat remarkable, that before the year 1746, there never was an inſtance of a leaſe upon that eſtate; yet it is believed, there is not an older or more reſpectable tenantry in Scotland; ſeveral of the families of the preſent tenants having been in poſſeſſion of their farms for upwards of 200 years. About the year 1751, the proprietor, the late Earl of Abercorn, began to ſubdivide his eſtate into commodious farms, to build convenient farm-houſes, and offices upon each, and to incloſe them with ditches and hedges.

The eſtate was thus reduced into a regular and progreſſive ſtate of cultivation; and the country beautified and adorned with hedge-rows, clumps, and plantations of various forms and extent. Though the rents comparatively have been greatly advanced, in conſequence of theſe improvements; the tenants are all thriving, live comfortably, and perhaps are in every reſpect, in a better condition than their predeceſſors; ſome of whom only paid at the rate of 5s per acre for the arable land of an inferior quality, with an intereſt in the commons, for which no rent was demanded. Prior to the year 1746, the medium rent of land in the pariſh was about 10s for the computed acre, now it is about L. 2:2. In 1763, ſoon after the Earl had compleated the ſubdividing and encloſing of his eſtate, he began to build his manſion houſe of Dudingſton, upon an elegant and commodious plan, the work of the late Sir William Chalmers. The houſe and offices were finiſhed in 1768; and continue to exhibit a beautiful ſpecimen of Greek architecture and elegance, and of Engliſh accommodation and affluence. The noble villa was ſurrounded with ſhrubbery, pleaſure grounds, canals, gardens; and in the formation of the whole, it is ſuppoſed, above L. 30,000 ſterling, were expended. The beautiful variety of the ground, the happy poſition of the clumps and groves, the ſtriking diverſity of the water embelliſhments, canals, lakes, iſles, and caſcades; and above all, the grandeur and beauty of the ſurrounding ſcenery and proſpects, independently of the magnificent form and architecture of the houſe itſelf, muſt ever render the place ſingularly pictureſque, elegant and attracting.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The ſoil is naturally but poor or indifferent in the greater part of the pariſh, generally a brown earth,

earth, ſeldom exceeding 16 inches in depth, and often not attaining to ſo much; towards the eaſt, inclined to and reſting on a ſtrong clay; and near the ſea-coaſt degenerating into a light, but with culture not unproductive, ſand. Agriculture has been carried to a high degree of perfection; though it muſt be confeſſed, from the circumſtances of ſituation, there is little ſcope here for the exerciſe of ingenuity, or the invention of reſources in the application of the art. The great medium of improvement is the manure of Edinburgh; and the great object of ambition, is the multiplying of wheat crops. Theſe by the command of manure, can be often forced upon the ſoil before the return of any ordinary rotation of crops would permit their introduction. The fallowing, drill, paſture, and turnip huſbandry, are little practiſed in this neighbourhood, from the dearneſs of the ground; and the eaſy though expenſive acquiſition of the richeſt manure. Crops of artificial graſs and clover are frequently introduced, generally cut twice in the ſeaſon, and ſeldom allowed to remain above two years upon the ground. Often the greater part of both crops is ſublet and retailed in bunches in Edinburgh, at 1d½ the bunch, the ſtanding price, though the bunch itſelf varies in ſize, according to the ſeaſon, crop, &c. Potatoes are alſo a ſtaple commodity, often ſublet like clover at L. 8, and even L. 10 per acre. Barley, oats, peaſe, as uſual have their place, though the laſt as ſeldom as poſſible; but aſſuredly the fineſt crops of each ſpecies of grain that can be ſeen any where, are raiſed here. Grounds that are kept in paſture, are ſeldom occupied by ſheep to any extent; but are generally grazed by milk cows, and road horſes from the neighbouring city; and theſe pay in the ſummer months 8d per night for each horſe, and 6d per cow.

Price

	L.	s.	d.
Price of Labour.—In 1746, the yearly wage of a ploughman was - -	3	0	0
A maid-servant, - -	1	10	0
A day-labourer, per day, -	0	0	7
A journeyman mason, -	0	1	1½
A journeyman carpenter or wright,	0	0	10
A journeyman taylor with his victuals,	0	0	4
In 1794, the wages now are *,—A ploughman per year, - - -	7	0	0
A maid-servant, - -	3	0	0
A journeyman mason per day, -	0	1	6
A journeyman carpenter or wright,	0	1	8
A day-labourer, - -	0	1	2
A taylor with his victuals, -	0	0	10

Manufactures.—The manufacturing or weaving of cloths of various kinds, though once prosecuted with considerable success in this place, has fallen, as has already been remarked, into a fatal decline. Manufactures, however, of a different kind, have arisen more recently with hopeful promise of success in the eastern parts of the parish. To the spirited and continued exertions of one patriotic gentleman, are to be ascribed the various useful works which now occupy and adorn the once desart lands of Figget, and which contribute to supply the village of Brickfield or Portobello with near 300 inhabitants. Mr William Jamieson, an eminent tradesman and architect in the city of Edinburgh, having purchased about 40 acres of the Figget lands, at the yearly feu duty of L. 2:2. per

* Besides this, farmers servants receive two pecks of oatmeal a week, and 6d, which they call kitchen, which may render the whole expence with other advantages, about L. 15 : 12.

per acre, built upon this property, in 1767, a handſome dwelling houſe; and having diſcovered a rich and deep bed of clay under the ſand, he began ſoon after that period, the manufacturing of bricks; which by the number of hands employed, and houſes required for their accommodation, gave riſe to the above mentioned rapid increaſe of his village. The ſame clay has been found equally well adapted for the fabrication of tile, brown pottery, and white ſtone wares, all of which are carrying on with hopes of encreaſing ſucceſs. The laſt of theſe, the white ſtone-ware manufactury, having been ſuſpended a while, has very lately been reſumed by Meſſrs. Cockſon and Jardine of Edinburgh, upon the Staffordſhire model, and upon an enlarged and liberal plan. As the work however is only in its infancy as yet, it would be premature to enter into particulars; but from the advantages of its ſituation, the vicinity of the metropolis, and the ſkill and ſpirit of the undertakers, a proſperous iſſue may naturally be expected to the attempt. Upon the ſouth-eaſt borders of the pariſh at Magdalene bridge, an attempt was made ſome years ago, to introduce the manufactory of Scots ſuperfine broad cloths, which after having been attended with conſiderable ſucceſs for a time, was at laſt ſuffered to drop into decay. In the works erected to proſecute this deſign, a manufactory of hats is at preſent carried on. Salt has been long prepared upon the ſea coaſt, in the pariſh. Maitland pans derive their name from, and were probably erected by ſome of the Lauderdale family, at one time proprietors of the land around. Magdalene pans, and Magdalene bridge, are ſuppoſed to have been named from a neighbouring chapel dedicated to St Magdalene, ſituated in the pariſh of Invereſk. The proſperity and produce of the ſalt-works, is in a conſiderable degree, regulated by the ſtate of the coal, of which the following article treats. A few years ago, the number of ſalters with the officers employed

ployed in the work, amounted to 17. Their labours afforded employment to above 40 carriers, all women, who retailed the ſalt in Edinburgh, and through the neighbouring diſtricts. The quantity of ſalt delivered by the ſix pans, regularly employed, uſed to be about 18,000 buſhels annually.

Coal.—Thirteen ſeams of coal have been diſcovered and wrought upon the eſtate of Dudingſton. Theſe are of various qualities, and ſome excellent in their kinds. They crop, as indeed the ſtrata of all minerals upon this coaſt preſerve the ſame inclination, to the weſt; the dip or declination, is nearly at an angle of 45 degrees from the horizon to the eaſt, a circumſtance which of itſelf muſt always have rendered the working of the coal difficult. Moſt of the above ſeams have been wrought from a very remote period of time, which cannot now be aſcertained, where they approach the ſurface, and as far as a ſimple free level could clear them of water. Under the Duchеſs of Argyle, a rude machine compoſed of, and named, *chain and buckets*, was employed to raiſe the water in the mines from a greater depth. When the property fell into the poſſeſſion of the late Earl of Abercorn, the coal and ſalt works were at firſt let to Mr Biggar of Woolmet, an enterpriſing man, who opened a level from the ſea, and carried it through the eſtates of Dudingſton, Niddry, and part of Edmonſton, up to Woolmet bank, a powerful drain of above 3 miles in extent, of moſt eſſential advantage to the more elevated coal works of the neighbouring proprietors, but eventually productive of ruin to that of Dudingſton, beſides opening the generating ſource of interminable law pleas. About the year 1763, the Earl of Abercorn began to erect a ſteam engine of very conſiderable power upon the Dudingſton coalliery, extending its operation to the depth of 52 fathoms. This engine was rendered uſeleſs in 1790, when on the 20th

of

of March the whole ſeams of coal were overflowed and choaked from the communication of the level with the higher grounds. Before this period another engine of greater power, and upon a new conſtruction *, had been erected near the ſouthern boundary of the pariſh to work the coal of Brunſtane which lies beyond its limits. The ſhaft of this engine pit reaches to the depth of 60 fathoms, and interſects three ſeams of coal, the firſt 7 feet thick, the next 9, and the laſt 15. The other materials through which it deſcends, are chiefly very deep ſtrata of a coarſe red free-ſtone, ſome of clay, and neareſt to the coal a kind of pyrites ſchiſt, which the workmen call bands of bleas. The porous quality of the free-ſtone rock, the number of cutters, and above all the inauſpicious communication of the fatal level, admit ſuch an influx of water, as has all along rendered this undertaking ſingularly laborious and expenſive, and at laſt reduced it to a very languiſhing condition. The number of coalliers, bearers, and other workmen employed at the coalliery before 1790, uſed to be about 270. The number is now greatly reduced. If the working of the Dudingſton coal ſhould ever be revived, it will require the aid of two ſteam engines of very great power to carry it on with any ſucceſs. If both theſe coallieries ſhould be finally abandoned, though there be ſtill much coal not yet exhauſted in the neighbourhood,

* The boilers are of a ſquare form, inſtead of the uſual ſpherical ſhape, which has been ſuppoſed to be beſt calculated to reſiſt the preſſure of the atmoſphere without, and of the ſteam within, to expoſe a more extenſive ſurface for the production of ſteam and the generation of heat. The cylinder is 66 inches in diameter, 9 feet the ſtroke in the cylinder, and 7 in the pumps; the beam 12 feet inſide, 9 feet 9 inches outſide. The working barrel 16 inches diameter. Ten ſtrokes are made in the minute, and each ſtroke delivers 60 gallons of water.

hood, this may tend to raiſe conſiderably the price of that important article, a temporary dearth of which was lately ſo ſeverely felt in the city and neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Of ſuch unwelcome interruptions of the public ſupplies of fuel, and of the ſerious inconveniences which they produce, there are cauſes which are not perhaps attended to ſo much as they deſerve. Since the period when the coalliers were emancipated by the interpoſition of the legiſlature from that ſtate of villainage, by which, like the *adſcriptitii glebæ* of feudal tyranny, they had been chained for life to the ſoil or work upon which they had been born, ſome conductors of coal works for a long period, diſcovered no better methods of binding them to their ſervice, than by plunging them into debt, or alluring them by diſſipation.——They were in many caſes ſeduced from their former maſters by more enterpriſing or leſs ſcrupulous employers. The debts, contracted in the work which they were to leave, were paid, and a premium ſuperadded, which they were tempted, like the infatuated raw recruit, to ſpend in immediate intemperance. More money was often injudiciouſly lent them, in the vain hope, that the deeper they were involved in debt to their new maſters, the more cloſely would they be incited to labour, and the longer they ſhould be conſtrained to remain at their new taſk. But inſtead of this, the men, as a little leſs ſhallow policy might eaſily have foreſeen, in ſuch caſes have become diſpirited at the view of the debts in which they have been ſo haſtily and often ſo unintentionally plunged; and at laſt deſpairing ever to diſcharge them, they ſink into obſtinate indolence, deſpondence, or profligacy; or they fairly run off from the work, and repair by ſtealth to ſome new contractor, who, though aware of their obnoxious condition, winks at the trick, and, when diſcovered, perhaps pays the fatal debt, and enſures the repetition

tion of the ſame fraudulent retribution againſt himſelf. Thus at laſt, either from the ſtubborneſs of deſpair, the reliſh for bribes and indulgences, and the habitual taſte for extravagance ſo imprudently foſtered, the men get into their rebellious moods, and refuſe to work without ſome new bribe, or perhaps unleſs their wages be raiſed in proportion to the increaſe of price, to which their maſters may have choſen to raiſe the coal itſelf. There is another circumſtance, which, though it does not ſo much corrupt the morals of the perſons concerned, contributes however to aggravate the dearth, and to raiſe irregularly the price of coals. When it is preſumed that the demand and the price of this article will riſe conſiderably in the market, a multitude of carters and coal drivers abandon their common occupations, flock to this new traffic, and become the carriers, in the hope of an advanced and exorbitant profit. As it is impoſſible to ſupply this ſudden increaſe of carriers with immediate freights, many of them are compelled to ſtand all night, and ſometimes all day to boot, upon the hills, waiting their turns for loading. Upon their cart load, they are afterwards compelled to lay not only the ordinary price of carriage, but this extraordinary expence of attendance and riſk; while it is evident, that half the number of carts might remove all the produce of the pits in the ſame time, and find regular employment with moderate and leſs hazardous gains. Convenient remedies for theſe errors might be eaſily diſcovered and profitably applied.

Minerals, Vegetables, Animals.——The foſſils, plants, and animals, which occur in this pariſh, with a few exceptions, are the ſame with thoſe which are common in all the diſtricts around. The ſtrata of lime-ſtone, iron-ſtone, &c. which run through the adjoining pariſhes of Newton, Liberton, &c. al-

ſo interſects that of Dudingſton. They dip into the ſea about or near to its eaſtern extremity, and are ſaid to have been recognized again on the oppoſite coaſt of Fife. Quarries of grit and free-ſtone have been opened upon the ſea ſhore, and of whin, or baſaltic rock, near the ſituation of the church. Detached ſtrata of clay have been wrought, ſo pure and unmixed with heterogeneous matter, that crucibles, bricks, &c. formed of it are capable of reſiſting a very great degree of heat. In the bed of Dudingſton burn, there is a ſtratum of black coloured ſtone, ſoft, ſmooth, and unctuous in appearance, which, as it admits of an agreeable poliſh, might be converted to uſeful architectural purpoſes if wrought below the crop rock, and treated with ſkill. Petroleum, or foſſil pitch, and manganeſe in ſmall quantities, have alſo been found in the crevices of the free-ſtone quarries. Upon the ſea coaſt, in the interſtices of rocks and ſtones, curious and rare ſpecimens of petrified plants and trees have been found. Some of them reſembled the fineſt Marſeilles quilting: others formed the evident petrifactions of reeds and exotic plants, now known to be indigenous in tropical regions only; a circumſtance which as it has ſometimes occurred ſo unaccountably in northern climates, has given riſe to ſo much ingenious ſpeculation, and to ſo many extravagant theories. Small pieces of chalcedony, porphyry, and agate in larger maſſes, have alſo been picked up upon the beach of the Forth, the boundary of the pariſh. Many of theſe have been poliſhed, and preſerved in the cabinets of the curious; and few remnants have eſcaped the avidity of collectors in ſo public and acceſſible a ſpot. Marle of different kinds and great richneſs, has been found in great abundance in Dudingſton loch, the property of Sir William Dick, and occaſionally wrought, though from the vicinity of the place to the unfailing ſtores of ſtrong Edinburgh manure, it has been undervalued and neglected.

The

The botaniſt may find more ſcope for the gratification of his taſte in this diſtrict, than the mineralogiſt. The fields indeed which have been long in a ſtate of cultivation, only exhibit naturally the common weeds, which bring both mortification and ſtimulus to the induſtry of the huſbandman. The ſea-coaſt produces but a few of the plants which are moſt frequent upon every beech. It is only the roots or ſkirts of Arthur's Seat, that deſcend within the limits of this pariſh. The mountain itſelf, contains above 400 ſpecies of plants; a number much beyond what Mr Lightfoot has aſcribed to it in his Flora Scottica. But theſe, with its other treaſures and beauties, foſſil, pictureſque, and hiſtorical, will probably elude deſcription in the preſent great ſtatiſtical undertaking, as no perſon may think it within his province to include them in his inveſtigations. Dudingſton loch alone affords a curious variety of indigenous plants. Of theſe, the moſt remarkable among the ſubmerſed ſpecies, or, as they are technically termed, the Inundatæ; are Mareſtail, or Hypuris vulgaris, Potamogiton natans,—perfoliatum,—lucens,—criſpum,—denſum, graminium, &c. Stratiotes aloides, Myriophyllum ſpicatum, and Ranunculus aquatilis. Among the marſhy, which are alſo often inundated, technically termed the Paluſtræ, are the Reed-graſs, Arundo phragmitis, Scirpus paluſtris, Menianthes trifoliata, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Sium anguſtifolium, Parnaſſia paluſtris, Triglochen paluſtre, Aliſma plantago, Epilobium paluſtre and—hirſutum, Polyganum amphibium, Lychnis flos cuculi, Geum rivale, Comarum paluſtre, Ranunculus lingua,—ſceleratus,—hederaceus, Caltha paluſtris, Cardamine pratenſis, Siſymbrium aquaticum, and—amphibium, Tuſſilago farfara,—and Petaſites, Bidens, Sparganium erectum and—natans, Equiſetum paluſtre and —fluviatile. The chief economical or agricultural uſes which this beautiful aſſemblage of plants has hitherto ſerved, is, when

when by their decay and reſolution, they ſubſide to the bottom of the lake, and contribute to form a rich and black mud, which has been found upon trial, to conſtitute an excellent manure. The Trefoil (Menianthes trifoliata), is generally gathered carefully in the month of June, for medicinal purpoſes, by the emiſſaries of the laboratories. The Reeds, which grow at the weſt end of the lake in great luxuriance and plenty, and cover above five acres of ground, have been employed by weavers to ſupply their looms; and form, beſides, a moſt valuable thatch for any ſpecies of houſes, which by the ſtrength and hardneſs of the fibres, reſiſts the attacks of ſparrows, mice, and the common vermin which infeſt and deface ſtraw roofs; and for the ſame reaſons, will laſt incomparably longer than any common thatch; while a ſmaller quantity will ſuffice for the ſame work, and form a light, firm, and durable roof.

Of the animals, fiſh, and birds of this diſtrict, nothing ſingular or uncommon is to be remarked. Foxes from the neighbouring hill or plantations ſometimes invade the farm-yards. A ſolitary badger at times may provoke a ſtubborn chace and conteſt. Otters uſed to frequent Dudingſton loch, and colonies of rabbits, the ſandy knolls near the ſea-coaſt. Seals, porpoiſes, crabs, &c. are often ſeen upon the ſhore. Curlews, gulls, cormorants, and the common ſea-fowl that frequent the Forth, viſit the coaſt; and ſometimes make incurſions to the inland country. The cormorant eſpecially, not unfrequently extends his depredations to the fiſh of Dudingſton loch. This lake is in ſummer covered with flocks of coots, which when young, form a tolerable variety for the table. They remain till the cloſing of the ice totally excludes them from the water, when they emigrate to the ſea, and return with the firſt thaw. Wild duck, teal, and water hens, alſo frequent the lake. Swans, originally imported tame, breed

in it prolifically, and form one of its pictureſque ornaments. The fiſh which are found in the lake, are pike, perch, and a profuſion of eels; twenty dozen of which have been killed in an evening, by the aid of a barbed ſpear, trident, or rather ſexdent. Carp and tench had been imported by the Earl of Abercorn, to ſtore his canals and ponds; but have now for the moſt part been deſtroyed by the pike, or waſhed away by the floods. The fiſh and ſhells of the neighbouring ſea are alſo the ſame which are common on the ſhores of the Forth. Scalps of excellent oyſters, are ſaid to lie oppoſite to the Portobello beach. Muſſels, ſpout or razor fiſh, are alſo gathered in the neighbourhood. Sometimes the cuttle fiſh, (ſepio ſoligo of Linnæus), and what the Scots fiſhermen denominate the pocket or hoze fiſh are caught upon the ſhore; the feelers or antennæ of which are ſaid to have been in ſuch high requeſt at the Roman tables. The ſea hedge-hog, another article of ancient luxury, (echinus æſculens of Linnæus), is alſo found upon the ſands. And in a ſoft black rock, oppoſite to the ſalt-works; and loſing itſelf in the ſea, may be obſerved, multitudes of that ſingular animal which Linnæus has named Folus candidus, which perforates rocks, and forms its habitation within their ſtrong munitions.

Antiquities.—Though Froiſſart affirms that there were above 100 chateaux in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, in the time of Queen Mary, and though this pariſh be ſituated ſo near to the metropolis, no ruin of caſtle, camp, or tower, can now be traced within its limits. The church is certainly a building of conſiderable antiquity. Dr Littleton, when Biſhop of Carliſle, and upon a viſit to the lord of the manor, concluded probably from the ſtructure of the arches, and the ſtile of the ornaments, that it muſt have been the work of the Saxons. There is no record, however, authority or date,

by

by which we can venture to aſcribe its origin to ſo remote a period. Under the bellfry, there appears a date beginning 51; but of which the remaining cyphers, and other inſcription, are now obliterated. Some years ago, in dragging the marle of Dudingſton loch, the head and horns of a ſtag, ſome coins, the inſcriptions of which were effaced, the blade of a ſword, and the heads of ſome ſpears and javelins, all from their ſtructure and materials believed to be Roman, were diſcovered. Some of theſe were ſent to the muſeum of the King, ſome were preſented to the Antiquarian Society, and ſome are preſerved in Preſtonfield houſe. In the adjacent meadow, in the opening of drains and ditches, under the firſt ſtrata of moſs and gravel, have been found wrecks of oak trees, hazel buſhes and nuts; and the almoſt conſumed iron of horſe ſhoes of different dimenſions. At the mouth of Dudingſton or the Figget burn, have alſo been obſerved, immerſed in a deep ſtratum of clay, the trunks of large oak trees, which when cut or broken, have been found black as ebony to the heart. They may perhaps be remnants of the King's foreſt to the eaſt of Edinburgh, in which, it appears, by the original charter of erection of the monaſtery of the Holy Croſs, the Monks obtained a privilege to ſend their hogs to feed. A cauſeway of conſiderable antiquity forms upon the north-eaſt the boundary of this pariſh; and is conjectured by ſome, to be a remnant of one of thoſe regular roads which the unfortunate Mary is ſaid to have been ſo attentive to encourage, for the improvement of her rude kingdom. Several roads of this kind, converged to the palace of Holyrood houſe, and this which now bears the name of the Fiſhwife's cauſeway, once formed a part of the great poſt-road to London. The boroughs of Linlithgow and Peebles, are alſo ſaid to have been bound to uphold this cauſeway; and it is known to have been a common practice of the above-mentioned

tioned Queen, to allow to bodies corporate, and even to private individuals, grants of certain privileges, immunities, &c. on the condition of their making and upholding particular roads and paths.

Remarkable Events, Characters, &c.—Tradition ſays, that the Figget whins, formerly a foreſt, afforded ſhelter and a place of rendezvous to Sir William Wallace and his myrmidons, when they were preparing to attack Berwick. The ſame doubtful chronicle reports a circumſtance which is confirmed by the more reſpectable authority of private letters, though it has not found a place in the hiſtories of the times. Before the battle of Dunbar, the leaders of the Scots demanded a conference with the uſurper Cromwell; he conſented to meet them on the morrow, half way between the Leith and Muſſelburgh rocks, at low water, upon the ſands, each party to be accompanied with 100 horſemen. Any queſtion they might chooſe to propoſe, he agreed to anſwer; but declined admitting of any animadverſion or reply. A part of this curious but unſucceſsful conference is reported to have been in theſe words. "Why did you put the king to death?" "Be-"cauſe he was a tyrant, and deſerved death." "Why did "you diſſolve the parliament?" "Becauſe they were greater "tyrants than the king, and required diſſolution."—At a later period, while the ill-fated Charles-Edward, the grandſon of Cromwell's victim, paraded his ſhort-lived royalty in Holyroodhouſe palace, in 1745, his ſcanty forces were encamped for above a month, to the eaſt of the village of Dudingſton; and many of the inhabitants remember the arts which their leaders employed to magnify their appearance, and to raiſe their own importance, and the bitter regret which the men expreſſed for having been impelled by their chieftains into their raſh, but at that time not unpromiſing, attempt. A

phænomenon of a different kind, not effected by the diſorders of the moral, but the convulſions of the natural world, was obſerved near the ſame ſpot, and about the ſame period; though it has not been recorded in the common productions of the time. On the 13th September, 1744, a water-ſpout broke upon the top of Arthur's ſeat, and dividing its force, diſcharged one part upon the weſtern ſide, and tore up a channel or chaſm, which ſtill remains a monument of its violence; the other diviſion took its direction towards the village of Dudingſton, carried away the gable of its moſt weſterly cottage, and flooded the loch over the adjacent meadows.

Some characters have appeared in this pariſh, not unworthy of notice. About the period of the overthrow of the Monarchy, or prior to the Reſtoration, the parſon of Dudingſton, (the Epiſcopal form then prevailed,) was named Monteath. Having been ſo unmindful of his character and office, as to engage in an illicit amour with a lady of rank in the neighbourhood, he found himſelf neceſſitated to fly from the ſcene of his diſgrace and degradation. He repaired to France, and immediately applied for employment to the celebrated Richlieu. He told him, he was of the Monteath family in Scotland. The Cardinal remarked, that he was well acquainted with the Monteaths, and deſired to know to what branch of the family he pertained. The exiled parſon, whoſe father had been a plain fiſherman in the ſalmon trade of the Forth, ſomewhere above Alloa, readily anſwered that he was of the Monteaths of Salmon net. Richlieu acknowledged, that he had not heard of that branch; but admitted with becoming candour, that notwithſtanding his ignorance, it might be a very illuſtrious family. He received Monteath to his patronage; and ſoon advanced him to be his ſecretary, in which ſituation he wrote and publiſhed

liſhed ſome eſſays which were admired in that age, as ſpecimens of the remarkable purity of ſtile and facility of diction, to which a foreigner could attain in the French language. His chief work was, "La Hiſtoire des Troubles ,' de la Grande Bretagne depuis," &c; par J. M. de Sal- " monet. A Paris: The firſt edition without a date, probably 1672. Mr David Malcolme was miniſter of Dudingſton, prior to the 1741. He had addicted himſelf to the ſtudy of languages and antiquities, was received a member of the London Antiquarian Society, and publiſhed eſſays and letters, Edinburgh 1739. Theſe diſplay a conſiderable knowledge of the Celtic and Hebrew languages, and were chiefly intended to form an introduction to his great but unfiniſhed undertaking of a Celtic Dictionary. They are commended by Mr Pinkerton, and quoted with reſpect by Gebelin in his "Monde Primitif," and Bullet in his "Memoires " Celtiques." Pollock was ſucceſſor of Malcolme in the benefices; but was ſoon removed to Aberdeen, as Profeſſor of Divinity. Names higher in rank and fame than theſe might alſo be recorded, to add ſome celebrity to Dudingſton. The celebrated John and Archibald, ſucceſſive dukes of Argyle, paſſed much of their time, and it is ſaid, received a part of their education with their mother, who reſided conſtantly in this village, prior to the 1734. The late Earl of Abercorn made this his favourite reſidence; and formed of it a kind of new creation: a Nobleman, whoſe character was little known, or rather little underſtood; but who poſſeſſed ſingular vigour of mind, integrity of conduct, and patriotic views. The late Sir Alexander Dick was univerſally known, and eſteemed for his general literature, public ſpirit, and urbanity of manners.

Church, Schools, Poor, &c.—The probable antiquity of the church has already been noticed. Its preſent appearance redounds not ſo much to its praiſe. The ſeats in the lower part of the church are in a tottering and ruinous ſtate, though the pews in the galleries wear a reſpectable aſpect. It would not require much expence to render the whole both commodious and elegant. A very beautiful ſemicircular arch divides the choir from the chancel, and the walls and roof are in a very reſpectable ſtate. An elegant marble obeliſk ſtands in the church-yard, a monument to the late Patrick Haldane, Eſq. of Gleneagles, to erect which, L. 200 ſter. were conſigned by his unfortunate grandſon, whoſe fate is recorded and ſculptured upon the ſame pile. The manſe is delightfully ſituated, and tolerably commodious. The ſtipend is in money L. 78 : 12 : 9, and in grain, three chalders. The public ſchool-houſe is inconvenient and ill conſtructed ; and the proviſion for the teacher, as has ſo often been lamented in ſimilar caſes, is deplorably diminutive and inadequate to the importance and ſucceſsful exerciſe of the office. The legal ſalary is L. 9 per ann. The perquiſites ariſing from the conjoined office of ſeſſion clerk, and the ſchool fees, may one year with other, amount to L. 16; in all L. 25 per ann. The uſual number of ſcholars is about 40. The fees per quarter, Latin and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. reading of Engliſh and writing, 2s. reading of Engliſh alone, 1s. 6d. or as it is commonly paid by the children of the labouring people, who form the great proportion of the ſchool, 1½d. per week. Another ſchool, ſituated in Eaſter Dudingſton, was originally erected by the tenants in the neighbourhood, and is now ſupported by a ſmall contribution, and the ordinary fees of teaching. A ſunday ſchool has alſo been tried in the eaſtern diſtrict of the pariſh, and has of late been attended with conſiderable ſucceſs. For the ſupport of the poor, no rate or aſſeſſment has yet been impoſed. The

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common collections at the church door, with the other uſual reſources of ſuch revenue, have been made to ſuffice, however inadequate to the object. The collections uſed to amount to about L. 27 ſter. per ann. From ſeat rents, marriages, and funerals, L. 13 more are raiſed. Of late, from ſome incidental cauſes which are not of a regularly productive or ſtable nature, they have conſiderably increaſed. At preſent there are 13 poor on the roll, who receive 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 4s per month. Families in diſtreſs are occaſionally ſupplied from the funds *.

Population.—The ſtate of population has been for ſome time very variable. From the late interruptions and threatened decay of the coal works, a great body of the people employed in them have removed to ſcenes more favourable to the regular and durable exerciſe of their occupations. In one village alone, Joppa, which was ſolely inhabited by coalliers, above 30 houſes have been deſerted, or ſuffered to fall to ruin, within the ſpace of the laſt 4 years. To counterbalance in part, this deficiency of population, ſeveral families of new manufacturers, &c. have in the ſame period ſettled in Portobello, &c. A migratory colony, beſides, of bathers, ſummer lodgers, &c. upon the ſame coaſt, continue every year to increaſe their numbers. But theſe cannot with propriety be rated

* A fund, or box as it is commonly named, is alſo ſupported in this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, by the coalliers and carters, for the maintenance chiefly of their ſick or diſabled members. Little or nothing is provided for their widows or ſurviving children. But, if the ſcheme were placed upon a more liberal and advantageous footing: were its objects in ſome ſenſe reverſed, and its chief expenditure devoted to the ſupport of the widows and orphans, inſtead of being conſumed in expenſive funerals, and engroſſed in the ſelfiſh ſuſtenance of the ſubſcribers themſelves, it might become a truly valuable and praiſeworthy eſtabliſhment.

rated among the eſtabliſhed inhabitants of the pariſh. By the accounts returned to Dr Webſter in 1755, the number was

In the year 1794, the number of ſouls was found to be 910, of whom there were 428 males, and 482 females. Births the ſame year, 45. Deaths cannot ſo accurately be aſcertained, as they are not regiſtrated by thoſe who belong to the aſſociations, or boxes of carters, &c. No individual of very great age at preſent lives in the pariſh; but there are 7 perſons above 80, in vigorous health; one of whom verges towards 90.

Character of the Inhabitants.——The people in general of the pariſhes in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, are neceſſarily of a very mixed character, and too frequently more corrupted comparatively, in the lower ranks, than in ſituations more remote, and leſs expoſed to the contagious effects of ſuch a neighbourhood. In every country, perſons employed in the active exerciſes of huſbandry, have generally diſplayed an inoffenſive ſimplicity, and laudable regularity of manners. For this character they have probably been much indebted to the order which they are obliged to obſerve in all their proceedings, to the returning, continued regularity of their employment, to the moderate but uniform profits which they draw from their labours, and to their happy ſecluſion from evil communications and ſcenes of corruption. The labourers and huſbandmen of this diſtrict preſerve the ſame general character, though the frequent and unavoidable intercourſe with the city which they are neceſſitated to maintain, has not been without its polluting effects. Coalliers have generally exhibited a direct contraſt to this ſimplicity and regularity of manners; and where they have not enjoyed the ſingular advantages of prudent directors and wholeſome diſcipline, they have been unhappily too often diſtinguiſhed by rudeneſs,

rudeneſs, diſorder, and profligacy. The degrading operation of that ſtate of villainage from which they have ſo recently eſcaped, the corrupting tendency of that injudicious management by which they have ſince been influenced, their irregular and ſometimes exorbitant gains, which at one time overſtocks, and at another ſtarves them, and which commonly puts it in their power, by the fruit of three days labour, to paſs the reſt of the week in abſolute idleneſs, or in ſottiſh indulgence; nay, the very darkneſs, dirt, and unreſtrained intercourſe which prevails in their ſubterraneous regions, unawed by the eyes or the opinions of the world above, may all combine to produce or to aggravate this degradation of manners. In the coalliery of Dudingſton, there have been ſome agreeable exceptions to this general deſcription, though its application to the prevalent hue of ſuch ſcenes of darkneſs, is too legitimate and congruous. Manufactures of every kind have commonly been thought unfavourable to purity of manners. The profits which they afford are greater, and more irregular than thoſe of huſbandry. In truth, wherever men are collected together in conſiderable numbers, corruption is generated; and as there will probably be ſome amongſt them found of depraved manners, the contagion is too apt to ſpread around. Where the conductors themſelves are men of ſteady principle, or where the more reſpectable workmen acquire an aſcendency, a ſpirit of ſerious enquiry, and ſtrict behaviour is ſometimes introduced among the manufactures, which may tempt the world to call them too good. And where the reverſe takes place, a ſpirit of licentiouſneſs and diſorder will prevail, which even the indulgent morality of the world may pronounce to be too bad. Of both theſe deſcriptions of characters, the manufacturers of this diſtrict afford examples. Though ſuch moral and ſecondary cauſes may thus tend to communicate a general complexion

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or colour to the manners of a country, profeſſion, or family, the ſpirit of religion may certainly powerfully counteract the evil peculiar to each ſituation, or improve and perfect the good. The ſpirit of religion, however, is not ſo prevalent or general in this place, as to produce effects which can be very oſtenſibly viſible, or extenſively felt. A great proportion of the people, however, are regular and decent in their attendance upon religious exerciſes, and diſplay a correſpondent practice in the integrity, uſefulneſs and beneficence of their common conduct. The more defective are certainly, in the language of the uſual comparative and conſolatory apologies of the world, not worſe than their neighbours.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF ST. NINIANS.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr SHERIFF.

Name.

THE ancient name of this pariſh was Eggles The appellation is derived from the eminence of the place of worſhip, *eccleſia*, by which the pariſh was diſtinguiſhed. The modern name, both of the pariſh and of its principal village, St. Ninians, is derived from St. Ninian, whoſe hiſtory is not certainly known. The following conjecture is, however, ſufficiently probable to give ſome gratification to the curious. According to Buchanan *, Dongardus ſucceeded to the kingdom of Scotland in the year 452. About this period, the Scottiſh eccleſiaſtics were infected with the Pelagian hereſy. Palladius was employed by Celeſtine to oppoſe the Pelagians: and Ninianus is mentioned among his diſciples, as highly diſtinguiſhed, both by the extent of his learning and the ſanctity of his life. The character of

* Book 5th.

thoſe times gives ſufficient reaſon to believe, that Ninian was afterwards canonized: and as no other ſaint of that name occurs in our hiſtory, it is not unreaſonable to conclude, that St. Ninian's Row in Edinburgh, St. Ninian's Well in this place, as well as this pariſh and village, received their appellations in honour of this pious reformer.

It is not neceſſary to ſuppoſe that the pariſh adopted the name of the ſaint immediately after his death, or even immediately after his canonization. In our own times, new buildings have aſſumed the names of ancient ſaints; whilſt a charter, belonging to the abbacy of Cambuſkenneth, furniſhes a reaſon for limiting the preſent name of the pariſh to the latter years of the papal ſupremacy in Scotland.

The names of the other villages are generally of Engliſh extraction. To this claſs, belong Newmarket, Miltown, Charterſhall, Clayhills, Newhouſe, and Bannockburn. Powmilne and Polmaiſe appear to be derived from *pou*, a provincial word, ſignifying a watery place. From the Gaelic we muſt learn the meaning of ſuch names as theſe: Touch, Touch-adam, Touch-gorm, Auchenbowie, and Auchenlilly, Linſpout.

Situation.—The pariſh belongs to the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, and to the preſbytery of Stirling. It is bounded on the eaſt by the pariſh of Airth; on the ſouth, by Larbart, Dunipace, and Kilſyth; on the weſt, by Fintry and Gargunnock; the river Forth, if the ſmall ſpace occupied by the pariſh of Stirling be excepted, ſeparates it on the north from Kincardine, Lecropt, Logie, and Alloa.

Extent.—The road between Powbridge, the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, and Randyford, the weſtern extremity, meaſures between 15 and 16 miles: but as the figure of the pariſh

parish is irregular, its extent may be computed, at a medium, about 10 miles from east to west, and about 6 miles from north to south.

The appearance of the Parish ancient and modern.—The parish is naturally divided into three regions. The most northerly division is called the Carses. The carses are flat lands lying along the banks of the Forth, from the east to the west end of the parish: these lands, in a plain but a little raised above the level of the Forth, extend southward from one to two or three miles.

The dryfield lands form the middle division. These rise suddenly and considerably above the level of the carses, and occupy by much the most extensive part of the parish. The muirlands form the highest region and the most southerly division. They rise considerably above the level of the dryfield grounds, and occupy, it is supposed, somewhat more than a fourth part of the whole extent of the parish.

It is highly probable, that not only a great part of the dryfield lands, but that a great part of the muirlands also was originally covered with wood. The royal forest of Dundaff must have covered the high lands, which are still called by the name of the lands of Dundaff. The royal forest of Stirling must have covered the rising grounds to the south of that town. An extensive moss renders it probable, that even the low lands of the parish, especially to the north east, were once covered with trees. There can be no doubt, that at an early period, the Torwood occupied much of the lands of the parish to the east and to the south east.

The limits of the carse and dryfield lands, still assume the general appearance of the banks of a river, and give plausibility to an opinion, that the carse lands were originally covered

by the water of the Forth. But be this as it may, the hiſtory of the battle of Bannockburn, gives ſufficient evidence that the carſes, in the Reign of King Robert Bruce, formed an almoſt impaſſible moraſs.

It is by no means probable, that the exertions of art were much employed in improving the original appearance of the pariſh. We have few monuments of antiquity, except the Roman cauſeway which enters the pariſh at the Torwood, and paſſes through it in a north-weſterly direction.

The ruins found in the Muirland, near the ſource of the Carron, ſhould, with ſome others in the pariſh, have been paſſed over in ſilence, were they not generally ſuppoſed to be the remains of a caſtle, the reſidence of Sir John the Graham, who fell in the battle of Falkirk, defending the liberty of his country, againſt the ambition of Edward.

Preſent Appearance.—The preſent appearance of the pariſh is very different from its former ſtate; the face of the country is naturally beautiful, and the natural beauty of the hills and vallies is increaſed by the windings of the Forth, by innumerable incloſures, by many young thriving plantations, by a variety of villages, and by ſeveral genteel houſes, appearing in different parts of the pariſh.

The carſes are now eſteemed as valuable as any land in North-Britain. They have already attained the higheſt degree of modern cultivation; and generally produce luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, flax, and artificial graſſes.

The dryfields are in general arable, and have likewiſe reached a conſiderable degree of cultivation. They produce the ſame crops with the carſes; though the produce of the latter be generally ſuperior to the produce of the former, both in quantity and quality.

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The muirlands are in general moſt profitably employed in rearing black cattle and ſheep; though in many places they are arable, and might on every farm ſupply the quantity of corn conſumed by the feuars and tenants.

Agriculture in the Carſes.—Rotation of Crops.—A farm is divided into ſix parts. The firſt part is laid down in fallow, the ſecond part in wheat, the third in beans, the fourth in barley, the fifth in graſs, the ſixth in oats. The rotation on each of theſe ſix parts is the ſame, viz. fallow, wheat, beans, barley, graſs, oats. The only difference conſiſts in the crop with which the rotation begins. The firſt part begins with fallow, &c. according to the preſent condition of the land.

Tillage.——The fallow whilſt preparing for a crop of wheat, is ploughed ſix times, if the weather be favourable; the fields for beans or oats once, for barley thrice or four times; graſſes are uſually ſown with the barley.

Manure.——Eight chalders of lime are allowed to an acre. The lime is thrown on the fallow after the fifth plowing, and immediately before the ſixth plowing, when the wheat is ſown. Dung is laid on the ground that is preparing for barley; ſeventy carts are allowed to an acre. No other manure, for the moſt part, is employed during one rotation of ſix years.

Seed and Produce.—Two firlots of wheat ſown on an acre, return from eight to ten bolls. Three firlots of barley ſown on an acre, return ſeven bolls. One boll or five firlots of oats ſown on an acre, return ſix or ſeven bolls. Five or ſix firlots of beans ſown on an acre, return ſeven or eight bolls. Two firlots of rye graſs, with ſix or eight pounds of clover ſown

ſown on an acre, uſually return about 200 ſtones of hay. The carſe farmers uſually confine themſelves to one crop of graſs.

Seed-time, &c.——Beans are ſown about the beginning of March; oats about the latter end of March; barley about the latter end of April; wheat ſome time before or about the firſt of November.

Harveſt uſually begins about the middle of Auguſt, and ends about the laſt of September.

The cultivation of the dryfield lands is ſomewhat different from the cultivation of the carſes. The ſucceſſion of crops in the dryfield is commonly in the following order: Oats two years, barley one year, graſs one year, paſture two years. Where the ground is very good, peas and beans inſtead of oats are ſometimes ſown in the ſecond year of the rotation.

Land preparing for oats, peas or beans, is ploughed once. Ground for barley twice. Graſſes are uſually ſown with the barley.

Lime is laid on the dryfield lands in the month of Auguſt, immediately after the graſs crop is cut. It is not ploughed down. Seven chalders are allowed to an acre. Dung is laid on the ground, preparing for barley; ſixty carts drawn by one horſe, are allowed to an acre. When beans and peas are ſown, the dung is laid upon the ground preparing for them. Neither more nor other manure is almoſt ever uſed during one rotation of ſix years. There is marle in the pariſh, but the uſe of it has of late been almoſt entirely diſcontinued.

Five firlots of oats ſown on an acre, return ſeven bolls. Three firlots of barley ſown on an acre, return ſeven bolls. Five firlots of peas and beans ſown on an acre, return ſix or ſeven bolls. Half a boll of rye-graſs ſeed, and eight pounds of

of red, and four pounds of white clover ſeed ſown on an acre, return 200 ſtones of hay.

Oats are ſown about the middle of March. Barley about the beginning of May. Beans about the firſt of March.

Oats and beans are reaped about the middle of September. Barley about the latter end of Auguſt.

When wheat is ſown on the dryfield lands, which is not generally done, the preparation, excepting two plowings, is the ſame as in the carſes.

The carſe land is too wet during winter, for the profitable cultivation of turnips; they are ſometimes ſown on the dryfields.

A few potatoes are planted by almoſt every farmer, whether in the carſes or in the dryfields. Three bolls planted on an acre return about ſixty bolls. A little flax alſo is generally ſown after potatoes. Twelve pecks of lintſeed ſown on an acre, return thirty ſix ſtones of lint from the mill. Different kinds of ploughs are uſed. The price alſo varies from 12s. to L. 2 : 12s : 6d. Two horſes are uſually put to a plough; and are ſufficient to cultivate a farm of thirty acres.

It need hardly be added, that theſe ſtatements have been made at an average, and muſt frequently and conſiderably vary according to the circumſtances of particular ſeaſons, and of different farmers.

Roads.—Seven miles of the great turnpike road from Edinburgh to Stirling, five or ſix miles of the turnpike road from Stirling to Glaſgow, about twelve miles of the road from Dunbarton to the ferry near Alloa, lie in this pariſh. All our roads and bridges are kept in excellent repair by the attention of the country gentlemen. The expences are defrayed by the produce of the tolls, or of the ſtatute labour.

About

About twelve years ago, an act of parliament was obtained for the better regulation of the ſtatute work in the county of Stirling. By that act, inſtead of ſtatute labour, leave is given to aſſeſs the land in 18s ſter. for every L. 100 Scots of the valued rent.

Rivers.—The water of Endrick, famous for its trouts, riſes in our muirlands; and after running weſtward through the pariſhes of Fintry, Balfron, Killearn, Drymen, and Buchanan, empties itſelf into Loch Lomond.

Bannockburn (ſo called, *(Majoris Hiſtoria)* becauſe on it was made the meal of the bannocks, or panis cineritius of the Romans; cakes toaſted under the aſhes were called bannocks), receives its water partly from Loch Coulter, and partly from the high lands in the north weſt part of the pariſh. It takes its courſe towards the north eaſt, and falls into the Forth within the bounds of the pariſh. This ſmall river might be employed to great advantage by the manufacturer or artiſan.

The Carron runs along the ſouthern boundary of the pariſh for five miles and an half. The Poems of Oſſian have marked the banks of this river as the ſcene of battle between the Romans and the independent clans of the north.

It has been thought, though it cannot be certainly determined, that the Earl's burn, the Earl's hill, a hill and a rivulet in the muirland part of the pariſh, derived their names from the reſidence of ſome feudal baron or earl in the neighbourhood of the Carron. It is natural to ſuppoſe, that Gillies hill, another hill in the muirland part of the pariſh, derives its name from the name Gill or Gillies. The names both of Gillies and Moriſon occur in the muirlands. It is certain, that the fair lady, mother of Gill Morice, "lived on the Carron ſide." This union of facts and probabilities ſuggeſts to the imagination, though it cannot perſuade the judgement

that

that this parish was the scene of the tragical song, known by the name of Gill Morice. The Carron was once distinguished by a cascade called Auchintillilin's spout. It is now distinguished by a very extensive iron manufactory in the parish of Larbert.

The Forth is the only great river with which we are concerned. It forms the boundary of the parish on the north. The length of the river from Gargunnock where it meets, to Kersey where it leaves this parish, is more than sixteen miles, though the distance betwixt these places does not in a straight line exceed half that extent. The windings of the Forth have been remarked and admired by every traveller of taste; but whilst they beautify the country, they render the navigation of the river peculiarly tedious. A minute description of the Forth seems altogether unnecessary, as the Forth or ancient Bodotria is sufficiently known to every student of British history.

Loch Coulter, the only considerable loch in the parish, extends about two miles in circumference. It abounds with perches and eels, and lies in the muirland part of the parish. It is currently reported, on the evidence of witnesses still alive, that about twenty-four years ago, by some convulsion of nature, a stone weighing nearly a ton was thrown from its bed in the loch to the distance of some yards to the northward.

The Carron frequently overflows a considerable tract of meadow and some arable land on its banks. Some of the low lying lands on the banks of the Forth are subjected to the overflowings of the river. A considerable farm called Bollfor-nought, probably from its being gained from the Forth, is particularly subject to this inconvenience. The wall with which it is surrounded has sometimes been broken down by the weight of the water, and the greater part of the land overflowed.

It may be proper in this place to obſerve, that ſeveral years ago, a remarkable *water ſpout* emptied itſelf, partly on the lands of Touch, and partly on the lands of Touch-adam. The water which fell on the lands of Touch, carried off ſome cattle, ſeveral houſes with their furniture. A few of the inhabitants were drowned. The water which fell on the lands of Touch-adam, directed its courſe towards the village of St. Ninians. and carried off a bridge and two houſes, together with a great quantity of earth from the miniſter's glebe and ſome other places.

No other remarkable phenomena of this kind are talked off, excepting two ſhocks of an earthquake, which in one night, about thirty years ago, were very generally felt in the pariſh and neighbourhood.

There are ſeveral mineral ſprings in the pariſh; but they are not at preſent much frequented.

We have ſeveral merchants who retail the articles of ordinary conſumption.

We have no great manufactories. Four tanneries employ about 20 hands. Four maſters employ about 113 hands in making nails. One hand works from 1000 to 1200 nails per day.

The moſt conſiderable manufacture is carried on at Bannockburn. Of late cotton-cloth, and for a long time, all the tartan uſed by the army, has been manufactured at this village.

There are three coal-works in the pariſh; one at Auchenbowie, one at Pleanmuir, one at Bannockburn. Theſe works taken together, raiſe about 600 tons of coal per week. They ſupply the adjacent country, eſpecially to the weſt and north, to a very conſiderable extent.

The pariſh abounds with lime-ſtone. At preſent, however, it is not wrought to any conſiderable extent, except at Craig-

end

end and Murray's-hall. At Murray's-hall, from 12 to 13 chalders of lime are wrought by about 17 hands. The burning ſeaſon begins about April, and ends about Martinmas. The lime is wrought under ground, in the ſame manner as coal. The ſeam of lime is from 5 feet 6, to five feet 8 or 10 inches thick. At Craig-end, 16 men and 2 horſes are employed in working yearly about 2000 chalders of lime. The ſeam at this work, is about 5 feet 8 inches. By a chalder is meant 6 bolls peaſe meaſure. A chalder of ſhells is equal to 18 or 19 bolls of ſlacked lime. The lime at both theſe works is of the firſt quality. An experiment was made at Craig-end; and in 96 bolls of lime, there was found only one boll of ſand.

From 50 to 100 hands are uſually employed in malting, and in diſtilling aquavitae. There are at leaſt 6 diſtilleries in the pariſh. Some of them at preſent, (November 1794,) are not employed.

Price of Proviſions.—Wheat, 21s per boll, Stirling meaſure; barley, 19s; oats, 14s; peaſe, 17s; beans, 18s; potatoes, 4d per peck; hay, 4d per ſtone; beef, 4d½ per lib. mutton, 4d do.; veal, 4d; pork, 3d; a hen, 1s 3d; a duck, 10d; butter, 9d per lib. cheeſe, 3d½; milk, per pint Scotch, 2d; eggs, per dozen, 4d; whiſky, 1s 6d per pint; ſtrong beer, 5d; ſmall beer, per gallon Engliſh, 4d; coal per ton Dutch, 5s 4d; candle per lib. 6½; cows graſs for ſix months, 30s; ſtone of ſmeared wool, 4s 3d; ſtone of white waſhed wool, 7s; ſalmon from 4d to 1s per lib.

Price of Labour.—A weaver 14d per day; ſhoemaker 14d do; ſtocking-maker 1s; taylor 10d with victuals; carpenter 9s per week; cart and plough-wright 8s per week; maſon 20d per day; black-ſmith 9s per week; tanner 15d per day;

maltſter 12 guineas with victuals, *per annum;* man-ſervant *per annum*, with victuals, L. 9 or 10; nailer 15d per day; wool-comber 15d; maid-ſervant with victuals, L. 4; day-labourer 14d; gardener 14d; ſlater 2s 3d per day; cooper per week, with board, 4s; baker, *per annum*, with board, L. 11; ſieve-wright per week, with board, 3s 6d; clock-maker per week, with board, 10s; wheel-wright do, 4s; miner per week, 10s; tanners from 9s to 7s per week.

Rent.——The valued rent of the pariſh certified to the Exchequer in the year 1661, amounted to L. 20,861 Scots. But according to the ſubdiviſion ſtated by the Commiſſioners of Supply, it does not exceed L. 20,710 of the ſame money.

In the year 1775, the miniſter applying for an augmentation of ſtipend, ſtated the real rental of the pariſh at L. 12,663 ſterling. But as it is certain, that the rent of land, of coal, and of lime, has riſen conſiderably ſince that time, the real rental at preſent cannot be computed at leſs than L. 15,000 ſterling.

The landholders amount at preſent to the number of 132; 51 have held their property for 14 years; 36 have ſucceeded as heirs; 45 have purchaſed their eſtates: 25 poſſeſs L. 100 valued rent and upwards; 47 poſſeſs from L. 20 to L. 100 valued rent; 60 poſſeſs from L. 1 to L. 20 valued rent.

Meetings of Landholders.—Theſe proprietors have in the ſchool-houſe a commodious room, where they uſually meet for tranſacting buſineſs. Ten days, ſabbaths not included, previous to a meeting of Landholders, intimation of the time and cauſe of the meeting muſt be made by letter, to ſuch of their number as do not reſide in the pariſh; to ſuch as reſide,

ſimilar intimation is given from the precentor's deſk, after divine ſervice is concluded.

Theſe meetings provide for, and ſuperintend the building and repairing of the church, manſe, ſchool-houſe, manſe-office-houſes, and the walls of the glebe and church-yard. They have a right to inſpect the expenditure of the funds committed to the management of the Kirk Seſſion. They have a right to inſpect the expenditure of vacant ſtipend. They have at preſent the principal management of the proviſion made for the poor. They almoſt alone nominate to the office of ſchoolmaſter; and as landholders in the pariſh, they have a limited right to vote in the election of miniſters, ſerving in the church eſtabliſhed by law. Every cauſe is determined by a majority of votes. Records of their tranſactions are kept by their clerk, and appeals may be made to the Court of Seſſion, from any deciſion ſuppoſed to be illegal or irregular.

The conſiderable eſtates, are Touch, Touch-adam, and Polmaiſe, Sauchie, Bannockburn, Craigforth, Auchenbowie, Stuart-hall, Throſk, Carnock, Grunyards, Plean, and lands belonging to the town and hoſpitals of Stirling. Few of the proprietors of theſe eſtates reſide in the pariſh.

Population.——Though the inhabitants of the pariſh have been frequently numbered, we are not able by authentic records, to aſcertain its ancient population.

In the year 1755, the population returned to Dr Webſter, amounted to 6491. In 1792, it amounted to 7079. It is beyond a doubt, that the population of the pariſh is increaſing. The decreaſe of population by the uniting of farms in the country, is more than compenſated by the increaſe of the inhabitants in the villages.

Farmers.—

Farmers.—Some of our farmers have been favoured with a liberal education. A few of them have been inſtructed in the rudiments of the Latin language. Almoſt all of them have been taught writing and arithmetic, as well as to read the Engliſh language with underſtanding and eaſe. Moſt of them from their earlieſt years are inured to manual labour. Nor are the operations of carting, plowing, &c. confined to their earlier years; many of them always, and moſt of them occaſionally, lend their perſonal labour to the cultivation of their grounds.

As our farmers in general do not enjoy the luxuries of affluence, ſo few of them are ſubjected to the miſeries of extreme poverty. Their diet is uſually frugal; but occaſions are not wanting when they enjoy with temperance the comforts of the table. Their mental qualifications are not inferior to their external advantages. This valuable order of ſociety, is in this place diſtinguiſhed by no inconſiderable degree of manly intelligence and general information.

A careful and candid obſerver will not deny, that our farmers are in general frugal, induſtrious, and moderately happy; at the ſame time he muſt acknowledge, that their circumſtances might, in many reſpects, be conſiderably improved. It is not altogether without reaſon, that they complain of the ſmall extent and of the high rents of their farms. Their dwelling houſes, with a few exceptions, are confeſſedly incommodious. Though the veſtiges of their original ſlavery be gradually wearing away, they are not as yet completely effaced. In ſome baronies, the farmers work the hay, and in others, they cart the coals of the landholders. Thirlage is an obvious grievance. Thirlage is a low kind of monopoly by which the tenant is obliged to make all, or ſome part of his meal, at one ſpecified mill. The conſequences of thirlage are ſimilar to the conſequences

of all other monopolies: Fraud, extortion, inſolence, and inferior workmanſhip. If theſe crimes be ſeldom committed, the cauſe muſt be ſought in the miller, not in the nature of the monopoly.

Manufacturers and others.—The education and manners of our manufacturers ſo nearly reſemble the education and manners of our farmers, that a deſcription of the latter in a great meaſure ſuperſedes the neceſſity of deſcribing the former. Though diſtinguiſhed by ſome peculiarities inſeparable from their profeſſions, our manufacturers poſſeſs a degree of enlargement of mind, which reflects conſiderable honour on the order.

This happy effect muſt chiefly be aſcribed to the general cauſes which are every where diffuſing an ennobling light through the maſs of mankind. In this place, however, ſome other cauſes contribute a ſubordinate influence to enlighten the minds of our people. The abſence of great manufactories, by obliging the individual to tranſact buſineſs for himſelf, prevents the degradation of mind which invariably follows a minute ſubdiviſion of labour. Many of our manufacturers, as well as of our farmers, are admitted to the office of an elder in the different congregations connected with the pariſh. The duties and privileges of the office, tend not only to enlarge the minds of the elders, but enable them alſo in their intercourſe with others, to extend the ſphere of general information. Add to this, that the public buſineſs, in moſt of our congregations, is conducted on a very liberal plan. The great body of the congregation is frequently aſſembled and conſulted, and the habit of thinking acquires additional ſtrength from the opinions which, on theſe occaſions, are openly propoſed and diſcuſſed.

But

But be the cauſes what they will, the fact is undeniable, that a conſiderable degree of intelligence is poſſeſſed by the great body of the people.

Poor.—The poor are well ſupported. The number of villages, the vicinity of the coal and lime-works, the eaſe with which feuars build houſes, and the low rent at which they can afford to let them, have induced many indigent people to take up their reſidence in this pariſh. After many attempts to ameliorate the condition of the poor had been made and abandoned by the Heritors and Kirk Seſſion, the preſent ſcheme was in the year 1774, adopted by the county of Stirling. The poor live in their own houſes, and receive a monthly penſion, according to their circumſtances. A committee of reſiding heritors, the miniſter, ſome elders, and other pariſhioners, meet on the firſt Thurſday of every month, and ſuperintend the payments made to the poor, according to a roll made up by the committee at a private meeting.

The funds are raiſed from,

1. An aſſeſſment on the land at a certain rate, per cent. the one half payable by the proprietors, the other by the tenants, according to their reſpective valued rents. This rate is fixed at a general meeting, held annually for the purpoſe. The rate has never been below 12s per L. 100 valued rent, nor above 16s, except in 1783, when it roſe to 18s.

2. A voluntary contribution from the inhabitants of the villages.

3. The balance of the Seſſion funds, after paying the uſual accounts.

4. The produce of the deceaſed penſioners effects, ſold by public auction.

5. The

5. The weekly collection at the parish church.
6. Dues from the mortcloths.

The number of pensioners varies every month. The following Table contains the number of pensioners, and the sums expended for 15 years.

			£.	s.	d.
A. D. 1776	-	99 pensioners,	165	11	4
—77	-	104 - -	201	12	1½
—78	-	105 - -	201	18	6½
—79	-	99 - -	197	16	3
—80	-	109 - -	202	6	8½
—81	-	117 - -	197	18	10
—82	-	111 - -	214	6	6
—83	-	119 - -	237	13	3
—84	-	127 - -	256	8	9
—85	-	106 - -	206	19	5
—86	-	111 - -	210	10	7½
—87	-	110 - -	218	8	3¾
—88	-	110 - -	217	13	4½
—89	-	112 - -	222	4	11
—90	-	101 - -	210	10	11

About two years ago, the Session received about L. 1000 sterling, by a will: On a day fixed by the will of the Donor, the interest of this sum is divided amongst the poorest inhabitants of the village of St. Ninians.

Ecclesiastical Estate.—It appears from the registers, that from the year 1655, to the year 1732, the office of minister of the Gospel in this parish, was successively held by Messrs George Bennet, William Fogo, James Fullerton, James Forsyth, William Couper, John Logan, Archibald Gibson.

Mr James Mackie, was admitted March 1734. This ſettlement was promoted by the Heritors, in oppoſition to a great proportion of the inhabitants of the pariſh. During this incumbency, about one half, it is reported, of the inhabitants of the pariſh, left the Eſtabliſhed Church, and joined the Seceſſion.

Mr John Gibſon with conſent of all parties, was admitted May 1754, and till his tranſlation to Edinburgh, 1765, the pariſh continued almoſt in the ſame ſtate in which he found it.

The next ſettlement was oppoſed by almoſt the whole pariſh. In June, however, 1773, the eighth year of a proceſs before the General Aſſembly, the patron prevailed, and Mr David Thomſon was admitted miniſter. The Eſtabliſhment was then abandoned by the great body of its adherents. Theſe, with a few others from neighbouring pariſhes, joined themſelves to the Communion of the Preſbytery of Relief. A large houſe was erected; a miniſter called and ordained; and a ſtipend was fixed at L. 100 *per annum*. This ſtipend is principally raiſed from the produce of the ſeat-rents.

Previous to Mr Thomſon's death in 1787, his hearers were indulged with the choice of the aſſiſtant preacher. From this period, the adherents of the Eſtabliſhment were gradually augmented. In the year 1788, they reſolved from voluntary contributions, to purchaſe the right of Patronage; though the price amounted to a ſum, between L. 600 and L. 700 ſter. the reſolution was ſoon carried into effect, and a young man, who was appointed to preach in the church during the vacancy occaſioned by Mr Thomſon's death, was admitted miniſter in October 1788.

The right of preſentation is now lodged with a committee of 9. The committee conſiſts of 3 elders, 3 heritors, and 3 heads of families. The members of this committee, are

choſen by the people, and hold their places for life, if they continue in full communion with the Eſtabliſhment. The committee is obliged to preſent in due time and according to the rules of the church whatever candidate is recommended to them by a majority of votes. Every head of a family in full communion with the Eſtabliſhment, has a right to vote in the election of a miniſter.

In 1746, The church, which the Highland army had converted into a magazine, was blown up; but whether by deſign or accident, is not known; ſeveral lives were loſt by the exploſion. It is remarkable enough, that the ſteeple remained entire. It ſtands at a conſiderable diſtance from the preſent church, and never fails to excite the traveller's ſurprize at ſuch an unuſual diſjunction.

The New Church was built ſoon after the deſtruction of the other. It is 75 by 53 feet within the walls, and at preſent in complete repair.

About 5 miles ſouth-weſt of the church, there is another place of worſhip. The heritors of the muirland part of the pariſh erected this chapel, and the miniſter or his aſſiſtant, uſually preaches there on the firſt ſabbath of every month.

The ſtipend was ſettled as follows, by a decreet of modification and locality, of date February 1785. "The Lords of "Council and Seſſion, modified, diſcerned, and ordained, "and hereby modify, diſcern, and ordain the conſtant ſti"pend and proviſion of the kirk and pariſh of St. Ninian's, "to have been for the crop and year of God 1776, and "yearly ſince ſyne, and in all time coming, 4 chalders meal, "2 chalders bear, and L. 1000 Scots money for ſtipend, "with L. 90 money foreſaid for furniſhing the Communion "Elements; but have diſcerned, and hereby declare, 600 "merks of the ſaid ſtipend ſhall be paid by the purſuer, to "an aſſiſtant preacher or helper in the ſaid pariſh, ay and

" until a new erection ſhall take place. And on ſuch events " happening, the ſaid 600 merks ſhall go to the miniſter of " the ſaid new erection, as a part of his ſtipend; which " modified ſtipend, and modification, for the Communion " Elements, the ſaid Lords diſcern, and ordain, to be paid " yearly, locally, to the ſaid purſuer and his ſucceſſors in " office, miniſters ſerving the cure of the ſaid pariſh, con- " form to the diviſion, and locallity following." The meal and bear according to the decreet, muſt be given in before Candlemaſs, and the money muſt be paid, one half at Whitſunday, and the other half at Martinmaſs.

The ſchool-maſter teaches Latin, Greek, Engliſh, book-keeping, &c. his ſalary paid by the heritors, is L. 14:12. his other perquiſites amount to about L. 20, beſides an excellent dwelling-houſe, ſchool-houſe, garden, and the ordinary ſchool fees.

There are many ſmall ſchools in different parts of the pariſh; together with a Sabbath-evening ſchool, in which the principles of religion are taught gratis, by one of the elders of the church.

Antiquities.—In early times, that tract of country now called Stirling-ſhire, was ſituated upon the confines of no leſs than 4 kingdoms. It had the North Umbrean and Cumbrean dominions on the ſouth, and thoſe of the Scots and Picts upon the north. Probably it belonged ſometimes to one, and ſometimes to another; for theſe powers were perpetually making encroachments on each other. Such a ſituation puts it beyond a doubt, that St. Ninians muſt have been the field of contention, not only between parties and tribes, but likewiſe between nations. An attempt however, to perpetuate the memory of theſe contentions, were equally vain and fruitleſs. The wiſdom of hiſtory has conſigned them to de-

ſerve

ſerved oblivion; and to recover them by means of tradition, were only to augument the already too numerous monuments of the weakneſs and folly and crimes of mankind. Their magnitude and conſequences, have perpetuated the memory of 3 battles, which the ſtatiſtical reader will expect in the pariſh of St. Ninians.

The battle of Stirling, was fought on the 13th September 1297. The Scots were commanded by Wallace; the Engliſh by Hugh Creſſingham, and John Earl of Surry and Suſſex. The defeat of the Engliſh, effected near Corn-town, on the northern banks of the Forth, was completed at the Torwood. The boundaries of the Torwood are much contracted, and that part of it which lay in this pariſh, is almoſt entirely removed.

The battle of Bannockburn, was fought in this pariſh, on Monday, the 24th June, 1314. The Engliſh Reader may find an account of this battle, in any Britiſh Hiſtorian. The Antiquarian will not be diſpleaſed with the following authentic deſcription of Baſton.

Baſton, a Carmelite friar, and prior of a monaſtery in Scarborough, was reckoned one of the beſt poets of his age. Edward brought him with the Engliſh army to Scotland, that he might witneſs and celebrate the victory, which that monarch expected to obtain. The poet was taken priſoner, but obtained his liberty, on condition of compoſing a poem in honour of the victorious Scots. Independently of the tranſaction which it records, the poem itſelf is not the leaſt of our curioſities*.

There

* *Baſtoni metra de illuſtri Bello de Bannockburn.*

De planctu cudo metrum, cum carmine nudo.
Riſum retrudo, dum tali themate ludo.
Rector cœleſtis, adhibens ſolamina mœſtis,
Verax eſt teſtis; que proſpera ferre poteſt his.

Quos

There are ſeveral veſtiges of this battle in the pariſh. In a garden at New-houſe, two large ſtones ſtill ſtanding, were erected

Quos vincit reſtis, pro ſindoni ſordida veſtis,
Ploro ſub his geſtis, perimit quos torrida peſtis.
Bella parata fleo, lamentans ſub canapeo,
Subque rege reo, neſcio, teſte Deo.
Eſt regnum duplex, et utrumque cupit dominari,
Sed neutrum ſupplex vult a reliquo ſuperari.
Dum ſe ſic jactant, cum Bacco nocte jocando
Scotia, te mactant, verbis vanis reprobando;
Dormitant, ſtertunt, quos irrita ſomnia mutant,
Fortes te putant, patriæ confinia vertunt.
Explicat exercitus ſplendentia ſigna per arva,
Jam ſunt diſperſi, nimis eſt virtus ſua parva.
Fulminat ad bella præco, clamans dira novella,
Fellea ſicut mella, tanta durante procella.
Nunc armatorum diſponunt geſta virorum,
Ne gens Anglorum vires enervet eorum.
Tu fer vexillum, quo Scoti terrificentur,
Agmina poſt illum, belli pro more ſequentur;
Arcetenens arcus tendas, nec ſis modo parcus,
Illic tranſmittas hoſtes perimendo ſagittas;
Iſtac tu tela vibris quaſi fulgor, anhela,
Non te pro tela, mortem feriendo revila.
Obviet hic illis cum fundis atque lapillis,
Pandens viſana, faciendo concava plana.
Et loca tu ſiſte, tendantur ut arte baliſtæ,
Examen triſte populus denunciet iſte.
Haſtæ tolluntur, patriæ ſatrapes rapiuntur,
Sic diſponuntur, quod multi multa loquuntur.
Format et informat Rex Scotus prælia dira.
Sunt equites pedites; O quam congreſſio mira!
Clamat; Rex animat Scotorum nobiliores,
Citat, et invitat ad bella viros potiores:
Cernit diſcernit acies pro morte paratas,
Tales mortales gentis cenſet ſuperatas.

Fatur,

erected in memory of the battle fought on the evening before the battle of Bannockburn, between Randolph and Clifford.

The

Fatur, ſolatur turbas populi venientes.
Riſit, deriſit Anglorum fœdera gentis.
Fortis dux mortis digitos ad bella docebat,
Cervis protervis, nulla differre jubebat.
Lætus ſit coitus, ſcitis rumoribus iſtis,
Stabit, pugnabit, ſic fiet Anglia triſtis.
Rex fortes tenet, et cunctis dat ſua jura,
Quos armis munit, prædicens bella futura.
Imbre ſagittali minuatur ab inguine ſanguis,
Turbine lethali ſtimulet jaculator, ut anguis
Haſta teres fodiat proceris ſpargendo cruorem,
Miſſilibus cum pericibus renovando dolorem.
Timba ſecuri pectora cruri ſcindere curet,
Tela vibrabit, ſic ſuperabit, ſi bene duret.
Mucro latet, nil poſſe patet, pro marte valere,
Sors præterit quibus omen erat ſupplenda, replere
Machina plena malis pedibus formatur equinis,
Concavas cum palis, ne pergant abſque ruinis.
Plebs foveas fodit, ut per eas labantur equeſtres,
Et pereant ſi quos videant tranſire pedeſtres.
Advena turba vocatur, Scotica gens muniatur,
Prima phalanx ſociatur, regia vis comitatur.
Scandere nullus eorum terga valebit equorum,
Fient ſic aliorum plures domini dominorum,
Exploratores mittunt hinc inde petentes,
Multos rumores ſunt inter ſe referentes.
Dira dies ſolis pandit primordia molis
Angligenæ prolis, hinc exit, ab ore ſuo lis.
Arrida terra gerit Strivelini prælia prima,
Splendida turba ferit, ſed tandem tendit ad ima.
Eſt dolor immenſus, augente dolore dolorem;
Eſt furor accenſus, ſtimulante furore furorem;
Eſt clamor creſcens, feriente priore priorem;
Eſt valor areſcens, fruſtrante valore valorem;

Eſt

The place has lately received the name of Randolph-field.
On Brocks-brae, the Bore-ſtone, from a hole in its center,

Eſt calor ardeſcens, urente calore calorem;
Eſt gens demeſcens, reprobante minore minorem.
Eſt ſtupor auditus, geminante ſtupore ſtuporem;
Eſt populus tritus, perdente timore timorem.
Surgit rugitus, fundente cruore cruorem;
Nunc timor eſt ſcitus metuente timore timorem.
Atra dies lunæ peſtem renovat nocituram,
Quam vi fortunæ facit Anglis Scotia duram.
Anglicolæ, qui cœlicolæ, ſplendore niteſcunt
Magnanimi, tanquam minimi, ſub nocte quieſcunt.
Expectat, ſpectat, gens Anglica quos nece plectat,
Admotos Scotos, ab iis non longe remotos.
Plebs plangit, clangit; ſed quam congreſſio tangit
Nec plangit, frangit vires quas ictibus angit.
Magnifici medici Scotorum ſunt inimici;
Munifici medici potuit victoria dici;
Inſultus ſtultus prætenditur ordine cultus;
Singultus multus erumpit ab aggere vultus,
Deſcendens, frendens pedibus, gens Scotica tendens,
Defendens, vendens ſua prodit dira rependens.
Hic rapit, hic capit, hic terit, hic ferit; ecce dolores!
Vox tonat, æs ſonat, hic ruit; hic luit arcta modo res.
Hic ſecat, hic necat, hic docet, hic nocet, iſte fugatur;
Hic latet, hic patet, hic premit, hic gemit, hic ſuperatur;
Hic fremit, hic tremit, hic pavit, hic cavit, iſte ligatur;
Hic legit, hic tegit, hic metit, hic petit, hic ſpoliatur;
Creſcit inedia, corpora, prædia diripiuntur;
Heu mulieres, miles et hæres inficiuntur.
Clare comes, venerande fomes Glovernicæ cultor,
Heu moriris, ſub ſtrage peris, ſic fit Deus ultor.
Trux Cliffordenſis mucrone retunderis enſis
Ictibus immenſis ruis hoſtibus undique denſis.
Miles Marſcallus Willelmus, in agmine fortis
Scotorum callus tibi pandit vulnera mortis.

is ſaid to have ſupported Bruce's ſtandard. Some catthorps, or ſharp pointed irons, have been found in Milton-bog. The Park-mill ſeems to have received its name from the park of wood, mentioned by Barbour in his deſcription of the battle. About a mile from the field of battle, a party of Engliſh endeavoured to oppoſe the victorious army, and left the name of the Bloody Fold to the place where they fell; perhaps Sir Ingram Umfraville gave his name to Ingram's crook.

On the 11th of June, 1488, the field of Stirling, or the battle of Sauchie-burn, was fought on a tract of ground called

Audax Edmunde Maley, probitate virilis,
Tegens hoſtiles ſuperat feritates abunde.
Belliger inſignis Tibitoyt, quaſi fervidus ignis,
Enſibus et lignis cadis, inſtat mors tua ſignis,
Nobilis argent. pugil, inclite dulcis ægidi,
Vix ſcieram mentem cum te ſuccumbere vidi.
Quid fruar ambage, de tanta quid cano ſtrage,
Vix poterat tragedia pandere ſchiſmata plagæ.
Nomina bellantum mea mens neſcit numerari,
Quot, quæ, vel quantum mors novit ibi violari.
Multi mactantur, multi jaculis terebrantur.
Multi merguntur, multi vivi capiuntur.
Broiis ſtringuntur, et munera multa petuntur.
Jam ſunt ditati per eos et magnificati,
Qui primi ſtrati fuerunt, velut apporiati,
Per gyrum finis loca ſunt vallata rapinis;
Verba repleta minis replicantur, et aucta ruinis;
Necis quid dicam, quam non ſevi meto ſpicam,
Linquo doli tricam, pacem cœlo juris amicam,
Qui curat plura, ſcribendi ſit ſua cura;
Eſt mea mens dura, rudis et vox, ima litura.
Sum Carmelita, Baſton cognomine dictus,
Qui doleo vita, in tali ſtrage relictus,
Si quid deliqui, ſi quæ recitanda reliqui,
Hæc addant hi qui non ſunt ſermones iniqui.——FORDUN.

led Little Canglour, on the eaſt ſide of a ſmall brook called Sauchie-burn, about two miles ſouth from Stirling, and about one mile from the field of Bannockburn.

Beaton's Mill, the houſe where James III. was put to death, is ſtill ſtanding, and may be ranked amongſt the numerous monuments of that ambition, which often endangered, and in the end, ruined the Royal Family of Stuart.

NUMBER

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF KILDRUMMY.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT LUMSDEN.

Geography and Natural Hiſtory.

THE annals of the 12th century mention this pariſh by its preſent name, which is pure Celtic, though a little differently enunciated in that tongue. It ſignifies *the little Burial Mount.* It is ſituated on the banks of the Don, about 40 Engliſh miles from its mouth near Aberdeen, and about 20 from its ſources, in the mountains of Curgarff. It is unequally divided by the river, which the people commonly paſs upon ſtilts; which are poles or ſtakes, about 6 feet in length, with a ſtep on one ſide, on which the paſſenger raiſed about 2 feet from the ground, reſting them againſt his ſides and armpits, and moving them forward by each hand, totters through. This ſhows the river is not navigable. It is however moderately ſtocked with the two kinds of trout, common to all the ſmaller rivers on the eaſtern ſide of the kingdom.

The pariſh ſeparated from its neighbours, on every ſide by pretty high hills, may be conſidered as a level valley, from 2

to 3 miles ſquare, to which is adjoined a narrow ſtripe, ſtretched between the north ſide of the pariſh of Auchendoir, and the mountains, for 3 or 4 miles in an eaſterly direction; ſuggeſting by its form to a fanciful imagination, the idea of the paſte-board kite, which Dr Franklin firſt raiſed into the thunder cloud.

Productions.—The ſoil may be regarded as for the moſt part a rich deep gravelly loam, ſuppoſed to be the moſt fertile in this great county, the boll of bear weighing 20 ſtone Dutch, and on a well cultivated field, in a favourable ſeaſon, 2 or 3 ſtones more in the boll are generally expected.

The outfield is ſtill managed in the moſt ancient faſhion; but all the modern improvements in the ſcience of agriculture, have been introduced into the infield; bear is ſpoken of by its own proper name, and though peaſe, potatoes, turnip, flax, and artificial graſſes, have been long enumerated among the productions of the pariſh, oats are ſtill ſcarcely known by any other name, than that of corn; carrying back our imagination to that ſtate of ſociety, when this was the only grain known in the country. There are inexhauſtible quarries of free-ſtone, fit for all the purpoſes both of the moſt ſubſtantial and ornamental architecture; but rarely found hard enough for mill-ſtones.

Lime is brought for manure in conſiderable quantities from the pariſh of Cabrach on the north, which Dr Anderſon, in his report to the Board of Agriculture, ſeems to have conſidered as in the county of Banff; and he has not been informed that the pariſh of Glenbucket on the weſt, contains an inexhauſtible ſtore of this fertilizing mineral, becauſe by an ill directed policy of the landlord, it has been there for ſome years locked up; for as both the ſtone and peat in that very inland diſtrict are more than equal to the conſumpt of all

generations,

generations, this reſtraint muſt have been impoſed from the idea of inducing the people to beſtow that labour on the ſoil, which would be otherwiſe laid out on the calcination and carriage of lime-ſtone. In a country, where the whole cattle are ſupported during the ſummer, on widely extended mountain paſturage inacceſſible to the plough, and where the whole arable land is under crop at fartheſt by the middle of June, there is an interval of nearly 3 months, in which the whole operations of the field are neceſſarily ſuſpended, when the induſtry of the people coinciding with their own inclination, might be more profitably exerted in making lime for ſale, than by their preſent caſual and often miſguided exertions. On the other hand, the liberty of following their own judgement with regard to the uſe of lime on their farms, would do more to promote the improvement of the ſoil, than the preſent arbitrary reſtriction which evidently diſcourages, rather than excites their induſtry.

It is hardly of importance to mention, that there is a conſiderable extent of natural birch-wood, on a bank overhanging a brook winding near the caſtle; and ſmall plantations of foreſt and fir-trees at the manors of Clova and Brux.

The horſes, though of a ſmall ſize, are of a fine figure, ſpirited and hardy. They appear to be an unmixed breed, that has for ages paſt been raiſed in this quarter of the country. If properly broke, and well kept, they would make fine pownies for ladies, and for an airing in the country. They are ſold from L. 4 or L. 5 to L. 12 or L. 14 ſter. Of late, their ſervice has been required for the plough and cart. In former times, when there were no carts in the country, and when the plough was drawn by oxen, their labour was reſtricted to the harrow,—to carrying out the dung in baſkets on their ſides—bringing in the corn, and exporting the meal and other commodities in panniers to the Aberdeen market.

The black cattle are not ſmaller than in any other diſtrict of the county; and they are often of a finer pile and form, to which the herbage of the rich ſoil, and the warm ſheltered ſituation are preſumed to contribute.

Their number and their value are ſo often varied, by the riſe or fall of the demand or of the price, that theſe particulars cannot with any reſponſible preciſion be ſtated.

Although there are but few farms on which there are no ſheep kept, yet this kind of ſtock is of no diſtinguiſhed conſideration, has received but ſlight attention, and been regarded rather as a matter of domeſtic accomodation, than of commerce or agricultural profit. To render this ſtock of proper account, it is requiſite to take meaſures in ſummer, for ſecuring a certain and more plentiful ſupply of food, during the ſnows of winter, and the cold weather, and the ſcanty paſturage of the ſpring months.

There has never been any meaſurement or ſurvey of the pariſh. The number of arable acres may be ſuppoſed about a fifth part of the whole; the outfield may be about a third part more in quantity than the infield: Originally they muſt have been nearly of the ſame quantity, and of equal value; but at preſent, there is certainly a great difference. The outfield may be accounted worth 5s the acre, and the infield may be valued about a guinea; but as the number of acres is no where aſcertained, and as the rents are paid in meal and money, in cuſtoms and ſervices to the heritor, and to the miller, neither landlord nor tenant can ſay with any preciſion, what the rent may be by the acre.

On moſt farms it would be proper to remove the buildings to the vicinity of the outfields, and to cultivate them in a ſuitable rotation of crops, with the application of the whole manure, and a proper allowance for lime; while the infields, if encloſed and laid out in artificial graſs, would for ſome years,

years, be more valuable than in corn; and by this means, the whole land would in a ſhort time riſe to the value of a pound or guinea the acre; but to effectuate this, the purſe of the landlord muſt be conjoined with the labour of the tenant, an encouraging length of leaſe muſt be given to the tennant, and a progreſſive riſe of rent to the landlord.

The pariſh is at preſent ſhared among 4 heritors. Charles Gordon of Ward-houſe, Eſq. holds about the one half, the principal meſſuage of the Earls of Marre; Harry Lumſden, Eſq. of Auchendoir, has Clova and the north; the ſouth is poſſeſſed by Jonathan Forbes of Brux, Eſq.; and part of the eſtate of Alexander Leith of Glenkindy, Eſq. ſtretches from the pariſh of Towie on the weſt.

Population.—There is no record extant by which the population of very ancient times can be in any way aſcertained. It may be preſumed, it has at no time been materially different from what it is at preſent; for the number of the retainers of the Earls of Marre about the caſtle, muſt be more than balanced by that of the improvers lately ſettled upon a conſiderable extent of moor, which was formerly wholly waſte. In 1755, the number was 562 ſouls. At preſent, the number is 568, of whom 221 are males, and 347 females. Some of them are craftſmen, ſhoemakers, taylors, ſmiths, neceſſary for the occaſions of the country; yet all of them poſſeſs ſome land, and are ſo frequently engaged in the operations of agriculture, that the whole may be regarded as farmers, there being no town or village in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The Scots language, with the enunciation peculiar to the county of Aberdeen, is the only tongue ſpoken in the pariſh; but many of the names of places are of the Gælic language: the names of ſome of the farms

in

in the vicinity of the caſtle, indicate them to have been allo
cated for the ſupport of the reſpective offices of that ancien
eſtabliſhment, ſuch as Cook's hill, Gardener's hill, &c.

Peat is the only fuel uſed; though this article is ſeldom
bought or ſold, it is ſo diſtant from many of the farms, tha
the corns are generally dried upon the kilns by heath; th
ſupport of the fire being commonly committed through th
day, to any of the children of 6 or 8 years old, not other
wiſe engaged; yet there is no inſtance of any kiln bein
burnt.

The prices of labour, of poultry, and of all commoditie
are the ſame, as in the town and markets of Aberdeen.

Antiquities.—The caſtle among the objects of antiquity
claims the firſt regard. From the river Don, winding alon
the bottom of the hill, which ſeparates the pariſh from tha
of Cuſhnie on the ſouth, the country gradually riſes toward
the corner, where the ridge on the weſt, joins the mountai
on the north ſide of the pariſh: A brook riſing in the angl
formed by that junction, ſeems in ſome remote age, to hav
directed its courſe ſoutherly, along the bottom of the weſter
ridge, right onwards to the river, and in that direction
formed a pretty deep hollow; but has afterwards fallen int
an eaſterly courſe, and thereby for a little way, formed
deep and narrow defile along the bottom of the mountain o
the north, until it regains its former direction towards th
river. By this means, it may be preſumed, the eminenc
has been formed on which the caſtle is placed.

Tradition bears, that it originally conſiſted but of one grea
circular tower, of 5 ſtories or floors; diſtinguiſhed by the ap
pellation of the Snow Tower, in the weſtern corner of th
preſent fabric, which was afterwards carried round a pretty
ſpacious court, forming an unequal pentagon, in which
other

other towers differing in magnitude and form, roſe for the protection of the intervening buildings, which appear to have been but 2 ſtories in height. Two of theſe towers were for the ſecurity alone of the only gate placed in the weſtern wall, occupying the whole ſpace between them; the walls were 4 feet thick, built of run-lime, and the outſide courſes of free-ſtone, regularly ſquared; the weſtern wall was reared on the verge of the acclivity at firſt deſcribed, which roſe however in ſuch a gentle ſlope, as to afford ſpace for the garden, which, though warm and finely ſheltered, would in the preſent age, be accounted too ſmall. The northern ſide was ſecured by the ſteep banks of the brook, and round the eaſt and ſouth, were deep artificial ditches, the whole fortification occupying nearly 3 Scots acres; beſides a draw-well. There may be ſtill traced from the interior of the fortreſs, a ſubterranean vaulted paſſage, of height ſufficient for horſes, opening in the bank, now much above the preſent bed of the brook, although it is believed, its channel was then on a level with the exterior opening of this covered way. In the middle of the eaſtern wall, the chappel may be ſtill diſtinguiſhed by the peculiar form of the window above the altar; conſiſting of 3 very long, and very narrow ſlits. Tradition reports, that the chappel was occupied as a magazine of forage, during the noted ſiege, by the forces of Edward I. in the year 1306; that when Robert I. and his wife and daughter, were underſtood to have made their eſcape, by means of the covered way to the county of Roſs, the beſiegers deſpaired of ſucceſs, when a piece of red hot iron thrown through this window into the forage, occaſioned ſuch diſtraction by the conflagration, that the caſtle was won by ſurpriſe and ſtorm.

Soon after the forfeiture of the Earl of Marre, for his friendſhip to the houſe of Stuart, in the year 1715, the caſ-

tle with its whole demains, fell into the poſſeſſion of a proprietor, who, reſiding elſewhere, let the adjoining lands to a tenant, who preferred low thatched cottages of his own rearing, to the lofty roofs of this royal palace, and the materials were partly carried off for other buildings, ſo that both the ravages of man and of time, have conjoined to accelerate its ruin.

The family of Fife, in the laſt generation, acquired the ſuperiorities of the Earldom of Marre, by purchaſe from the crown. It is ſaid, they ſtill retain the privilege of holding meetings, and tranſacting buſineſs, with the vaſſals in the Snow Tower; it is however certain, this never was, and it is much more than probable, that it never will be, aſcertained by actual practice.

Moſt of thoſe who viſit theſe ruins, make ſome reflections upon their ancient magnificence, compared with their preſent ſilent deſolation. It would be more pleaſant, and perhaps more uſeful, to compare the freedom, ſecurity, and comfort which the people now enjoy, notwithſtanding all the clamours reſpecting the corruption and decay of the conſtitution, with what they experienced, during any period of the 600 years in which the caſtle ſtood in ſplendor and magnificence. It is certain, that during this long tract of time, in which even the Kings and Nobles lived in fear, and in comfortleſs inſecurity; the condition of the inferior ranks of ſociety was extremely miſerable; while the minds of all were debaſed under the domination of oppreſſive prieſtcraft, and the gloomieſt ſuperſtition; the fortunes, perſons, and lives of the people, were at the uncontrolled diſpoſal of their petty, yet arbitrary chiefs; and the people were continually haraſſed by robberies, murders, and predatory wars, among their rapacious and capricious lords. Their habitations in cleanneſs and accommodation, were not ſuperior to the huts of the moſt

ſavage

ſavage tribes; their furniture, clothing, and victuals, were mean and wretched in the extreme.

But the civil liberty and the equal diſtribution of juſtice which they now enjoy, coſtly as theſe bleſſings are, by affording ſome degree of ſecurity, both to their perſons and their ſubſtance, hath produced among them a ſatisfaction and elevation of mind, unfelt in former times; their ſpirits are neither depreſſed by the ſlaviſh dread of inſolent tyrannical ſuperiors, nor debaſed by the gloom of diſmal ſuperſtition; the pure and gentle religion which they are now taught, enables them to ſupport the natural ills of life, by their truſt in a wiſe and good Providence, and by their hope of a happy eternity. Their houſes are tight, commodious, and comfortably furniſhed; well lighted, and free from ſmoke, clean in ſummer, and warm in winter; and the dreſs of apprentice boys, at church and market, is ſuperior to the finery of the young nobility of ancient times. By their frequent intercourſe with the city of Aberdeen, and trafficking in cattle fairs, from the ſhores of the Moray Frith to the other ſide of the Grampian mountains, they have acquired acuteneſs, diſcretion, and poliſhed manners, far ſuperior to thoſe of the ſame rank, in the beſt cultivated provinces of this great Empire.

Although the ancient times which have been mentioned, were far from being comfortable, yet the pariſh contains indications of a ſtate of ſociety in an earlier age, more unhappy ſtill; a ſtate in which it was neceſſary for the inhabitants to conceal themſelves under ground, debarred from the free air, and the light of day. We are unable to gueſs at what æra of our hiſtory thoſe ſubterranean abodes were neceſſary; or whether the neceſſity was occaſioned by the weakneſs, or puſillanimouſneſs of the people; or whether it aroſe from the dread of a foreign or domeſtic foe. Thoſe habitations have only been found in one quarter of the pariſh, about a

mile north eaſt from the caſtle, in a very level moor of conſiderable extent, exhibiting no token of having ever produced wood of any kind. Their number is conſiderable; but not certainly aſcertained; for the people who have lately ſettled as improvers on the moor, diſcover from time to time, one unobſerved before. Their entrance commonly from the weſtern end, is not larger than may be ſhut by many of the greater ſtones ſcattered over the moor. The inſide of the largeſt yet ſeen, meaſures about 16 or 20 feet in length, and about 6 or 7 in breadth at the floor; the walls are about 4 feet high, untouched by the maſon's hammer, and without mortar of any kind; approaching to each other gradually, from the foundation, ſo as to be covered at the level of the moor by flag-ſtones about 3 feet in length, above which the excavated earth has been careleſsly accumulated; ſo as while the rain is thereby carried off, the external appearance is that only of a ſhapeleſs hillock, ſuggeſting no idea of its contents.

Theſe remotely ancient abodes, carry back our contemplations to a ſtate of ſociety, when the principles upon which the arch is conſtructed, were nearly, but not completely diſcovered; and by comparing the ſtructure of theſe concealed abodes, with the moſt durable monuments of the wiſdom of Egypt, the moſt venerable fanes of celebrated Aſia, and the moſt elegant temples of poliſhed Greece, there will be found reaſon to believe, that thoſe principles undiſcovered by the ingenuity of the moſt renowned nations, were firſt known among our own rude anceſtors. But as Tacitus hath mentioned, (Mor. Germ. C. 16.) that ſuch habitations were alſo common among the ancient ſavages of the Continent, we are not certain that the whole credit of diſcovering this important branch of architecture belongs to ourſelves.

It

It might be thought an omiſſion, not to mention a ſtone column on the ſame moor. It is nearly cylindrical, about 3 or 4 feet in circumference, and about 9 or 10 in height. It exhibits no mark of art, and no tradition remains concerning it.

The little green mount, the only burial ground in the pariſh, upon which alſo the church is built, has no doubt, given the pariſh its name; and it may be preſumed, a church had been erected there, before the foundations of the caſtle were laid, and before the free ſtone quarries were opened, which afforded the materials for its walls; as the fabric of the preſent church is compoſed of common ſtone, collected from the ſurface of the moor, probably for building the firſt church the pariſh ever enjoyed. There are ſeveral of the pews, with the initials of the firſt owners, and dates more than a century ago. The ayle on the ſouth ſide, containing the ſeats, no leſs modern, which the Earls of Marre, and their attendants occupied, is built over the vault in which the bodies of their dead were for many generations laid. Several ſkulls, and many of the bones remain unburied in the bottom of the vault, the hatchway entrance from the floor of the ayle being now imperfectly cloſed.

The enbalmed body of a lady lay there in perfect preſervation, till about the year 1746, when ſome gentlemen of the county, idle by the diſtractions of that period, carried off the body, for more minute inſpection, than the accommodation about the church allowed. It was on that occaſion diſmembered, and a leg and thigh, it is ſaid, were ſent over to Rome.

It is ſuppoſed to have been the body either of the ſiſter of King Robert Bruce, Chriſtian the wife of Graitney, Earl of Marre, who added Kildrummy as her dower to the poſ-

seſſions of that family; or of Iſabel Douglas, daughter of Margaret of Marre, who about the year 1400, between compulſion and inclination, gave her hand, with the caſtle and its whole domains, to Alexander Steuart, the natural ſon of the Earl of Buchan.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF BORROWSTOWNNESS.

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT RENNIE.

Name, Situation, Extent.

BORROWSTOWNNESS, derives its name from the ſmall village of Borrowſtown *. The pariſh is ſituated in the county and preſbytery of Linlithgow, and in the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The town ſtands about 3 miles north from the preſbytery ſeat, and about 18 miles north-weſt from Edinburgh, the ſeat of the Synod.

Prior to the year 1634, Borrowſtownneſs belonged to the pariſh of Kinniel. The inhabitants then becoming numerous, built a church, finding it inconvenient to travel nearly 3 miles to the Old Church at Kinniel, and petitioned the Parliament of Scotland, A. D. 1649, for a disjunction, and a ſeparate miniſter. Parliament granted the prayer of the petition, and after ſeveral viſitations, the preſbytery of Linlithgow

* Borrowſtown probably the town of the borough, as being in the vicinity of Linlithgow, the county town in the neighbourhood, and neſs, which ſignifies a point of land projecting into the ſea.

lithgow found it neceſſary, that Borrowſtownneſs ſhould be erected into a pariſh by itſelf, bounded on the ſouth, by Graham's dyke; on the north, by the ſea; on the eaſt, by Thirleſtone, and on the weſt, by the caſtle wall, commonly called "Capie's wall." In December 1669, the Duke and Ducheſs of Hamilton, obtained an act of the Scotch Parliament, declaring the church lately built within the town to be "the kirk of the hail barony of Kinniel and Borrowſtown-"neſs." From that period, the pariſhes have been united, and conſidered as one. The pariſh now is about 4 Engliſh miles in length, from eaſt to weſt, and about 2½ in breadth, from ſouth to north.

Nearly of a triangular form, it is bounded on the eaſt and ſouth, by the pariſhes of Carridden and Linlithgow; on the weſt and ſouth, by the river Avon, which divides it from the pariſhes of Polmont and Muiravonſide; and on the north, it is bounded by the Frith of Forth, reckoned 4 miles in breadth, directly oppoſite to the burgh of Culroſs.

Surface, Soil, Rent, Produce.—The pariſh comprehends more than 320 Engliſh acres, all properly divided and well incloſed, except about 126 acres in the neighbourhood of the town, which are let or feued for the conveniency of the inhabitants. The ſurface of the high ground or dry-field, which may contain 2713 acres, is uneven, riſing gradually from the Frith to the ſouth, and ſloping gently on the weſt to the banks of the Avon. It is let at about 24s per acre. The ſoil is deep and heavy, of a thick, loamy conſiſtence. About 330 acres of the north-weſt part of the pariſh, are carſe ground. It is of the ſame nature with the carſe of Falkirk, and reckoned rather ſuperior in quality. Prior to the year 1750, this land was let at a low rent. At that period a new leaſe was granted, at 18s 4d per acre. In the year

1770

1770, another leaſe was granted at L. 1 : 18 : 6d per acre. And in A. D. 1792, the laſt leaſe was granted at L. 2 : 10s per acre. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3559 : 8s Scots, and the real rent at preſent is reckoned about L. 3000, excluſive of the coal and ſalt. In general, the ground over all the pariſh is in good order, and capable of the higheſt improvement. A farmer employs 2 or 3 ploughs, with ſometimes 2 horſes, and ſometimes 4 in a plough. No oxen are employed for the purpoſes of huſbandry, and grain appears a greater object than paſturage. The average price of a good horſe reared in the pariſh, and 5 years old, is L. 20. A good cow of the ſame age, is ſold at L. 6. Beans, wheat, peas, barley, and oats, are ſown in rotation. Beans, peas, and oats are ſown in March and April; barley in April, and the beginning of May; wheat for the moſt part is ſown in September and October. If the ſeaſon is favourable, harveſt begins in Auguſt, and ends in October. The crop is reaped by domeſtics, day-labourers, or ſervants hired for the purpoſe, and their wages vary according to contingent circumſtances. Within theſe 20 years ſown graſs has been introduced into the pariſh, and pretty good crops of hay have been produced. Beſides many clumps of young firs in a thriving ſtate, there are upwards of 70 acres of natural wood in the vicinity of Kinniel houſe.

Heritors.—The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor, and ſuperior of the whole pariſh of Borrowſtownneſs, except the farm of Muir-houſe, afterwards to be mentioned; it holds of the Crown by a charter from Charles II. His Grace the preſent Duke never reſided in the pariſh. The houſe of Kinniel, an ancient ſeat of that noble family, is large and habitable. It is built on the top of a beautiful bank, about 50 feet above the level of the ſea. The architecture ſeems ancient, though

not of a Gothic appearance. The main houſe fronts eaſt, is 4 ſtories high, with two large turrets. Many of the rooms are neat, and in good order. Some of them are ſpacious, and the fineſt figures wrought in tapeſtry, are to be ſeen in perfect preſervation. From the high ſtory, you aſcend by a cupola to a flat lead roof, which is ſurrounded by a parapet-wall, ſeveral feet high; and the ſpectator ſecurely enjoys at once, an extenſive, variegated, and grand proſpect. At ſome diſtant period, a wing has been added to the north end of the houſe, containing ſome elegant apartments. The houſe is ſurrounded by two gardens, by large incloſures, and by aged planting, which forms beautiful natural viſtas; and though now uninhabited, in other times it was the reſidence of Nobility, and the retreat of Kings.

Population.—In Dr Webſter's report, A. D. 1755, the pariſh contained 2668 ſouls.

Preſent population *.	Town	2613	3178
	Country	565	
Population, A. D. 1755,	-	-	2668
Increaſe,	-	-	510

Abſtract

* The preſent miniſter having been ordained only a few weeks before this account was called for, could not aſcertain the population of the pariſh with perfect accuracy.

Abſtract of Baptiſms, Deaths, and Marriages, for Seven Years preceding 1794.

Baptiſms.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1787	60	69	129
1788	61	47	108
1789	68	51	119
1790	54	51	105
1791	47	39	86
1792	42	54	96
1793	38	45	83
	370	356	726
		Average	103 5/7

Deaths.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1787	32	38	70
—88	28	27	55
—89	47	36	83
—90	32	25	57
—91	22	33	55
—92	38	37	75
—93	28	33	61
	227	229	456
		Average	65 1/7

Marriages.

1787	37
—88	28
—89	21
—90	27
—91	23
—92	25
—93	19
	180
Average	25 5/7

		Average.
Baptisms for 7 years, from 1752 to 1759,	617.	$87\frac{1}{7}$,
Deaths, - - -	505.	$72\frac{1}{7}$,
Marriages, - - -	128.	$18\frac{2}{7}$,

Twins born in the parish for 10 years, from 1784, 6 times.

In the parish, there is one minister of the Established Church, one preacher, three students of divinity, and 293 dissenters, including all sectaries and their children *. The Antiburghers only have a place for public worship; but no minister. The Burghers were connected with a congregation in Linlithgow.

Town.—Borrowstownness is a Burgh of Barony, governed by a baillie appointed by the Duke of Hamilton. No certain information can be obtained when it was built, or when it was erected into a Burgh of Regality; but it was made a Burgh of Barony, when the Jurisdiction Act was repealed in 1748 †. It is situated on the north-east corner of the parish, almost on a level with the sea. At high-water, the tide washes the north side of the town. The two principal streets are narrow, and running from west to east, about 300 yards, terminate in one, which is continued about 350 yards farther. The houses, bearing the marks of antiquity, are low and crouded; but for the most part, clean and commodious. The smoke from the coal-works, was lately a great nuisance. The town involved continually in a cloud, the houses were blackened with soot, the air impregnated with vapour, and strangers were struck with the pandemonian appearance of the

* Burghers 153, Antiburghers 103, Cameronians 37.

† Borrowstownness is a regular post town.

the place. But theſe nuiſances being now removed from the immediate vicinity, to a conſiderable diſtance, and more attention paid to cleaning the ſtreets, the air is more pure and ſalubrious, and the town aſſumes a very different aſpect. Still, indeed, the ſmoke from the Grange coal works on the eaſt, the Bo-neſs ſalt-pans on the weſt, and the duſt excited by the carts carrying coals to the quays for exportation, occaſionally incommode the inhabitants.

An elegant building, ſaid to be an exact model of Inveraray houſe, was built at the head of the harbour, about 20 years ago, by the Duke of Hamilton. The ground floor was intended for a Priſon, the ſecond for a Court-room, and the attic ſtory, for a School. But, the original intention not having been carried into execution, this fine building is going to ruin. Any rooms in repair, are employed as granaries. If the original deſign were executed, the houſe would be highly uſeful and ornamental to the place.

Water is ſometimes ſcarce in ſummer, the coal-mines having diverted all the ſprings from their former channels. It is to be found, however, at a ſmall diſtance from the town, in great abundance, and of an excellent quality, fit for every domeſtic purpoſe. It is propoſed to bring it to the town by pipes, for the benefit of the inhabitants. Crowded as the houſes may appear to a ſtranger, no bad conſequences are felt. No endemical diſeaſes prevail. The epidemics, ſuch as the ſmall-pox, meaſles, chincough, &c. are not more frequent than in other places. Dyſenteries are very rare; and fevers, when they do prevail, are in general of a low, nervous claſs. It has been obſerved, that health is enjoyed in a greater degree about Borrowſtownneſs, than in many other towns of its ſize and population. This is eaſily accounted for. The ſhore is waſhed by the Forth, twice every 24 hours, when, from the influx and reflux of the river, a great evaporation

poration of vegetable effluvia muſt impregnate the atmoſphere; which, combined with the vapours from the ſalt-pans in the immediate neighbourhood, will correct any ſeptic quality in the air. The walks about the town, are romantic and inviting; the walks on the quays, and on the weſt beach, are, at all times, dry and pleaſant, much fitted to promote health and longevity. But here, as in many other places ſpecified in the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, tippling houſes are too numerous. It may be ſeriouſly regretted, by the friends of religion and virtue, that ſo many people are licenſed to vend ardent ſpirits in every town and village. Such places enſnare the innocent, become the haunts of the idle and diſſipated, and ruin annually the health and morals of thouſands of mankind. Perhaps, if the malt-tax were aboliſhed, and an adequate additional tax laid upon Britiſh ſpirits, as in the days of our fathers, malt-liquor would be produced, to nouriſh and ſtrengthen, inſtead of whiſky, which waſtes and enfeebles the conſtitution: Or, were Juſtices of the Peace to limit the number of licences iſſued, by apportioning them to the population of each place, and by granting them to perſons of a reſpectable character, a multitude of grievances would be redreſſed, to which the innocent ſpouſe, and the helpleſs infant are daily expoſed.

" O' a' the ills poor Caledonia
" E'er yet preed, or e'er will taſte,
" Brew'd in hell's black Pandemonia,
" Whiſky's ill, will ſkaith her maiſt *."

* Scotland's Skaith, a little poem of real merit.

A Liſt of the Mechanics in the town of Borrowſtownneſs, excluſive of Journeymen and Apprentices.

Bakers	11	Maſons and ſlaters	3
Barbers	5	Taylors	10
Blackſmiths	7	Shoemakers	15
Butchers	3	Weavers	6
Clock and watch-makers	2	Joiners, glaziers, cart-	
Coopers	3	wrights, &c.	15

There is 1 ſurgeon, 1 writer, 1 brewery in the town, and 1 diſtillery in the pariſh.

Wages, and Prices of Proviſions.

Average wages at preſent.	20 years ago.
A man-ſervant per an. L. 10 and victuals,	L. 6.
A maid-ſervant per an. L. 3	L 1 : 10.
A labourer per day, 1s 3d, without victuals,	1 s.

Average prices of proviſions, per Dutch lib.

The preſent year, At Whitſunday,	At Martinmaſs.	20 years ago.
Beef, from 3d	to 4d,	from 2d$\frac{1}{4}$ to 2d$\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, 5d	3$\frac{1}{2}$,	2d$\frac{1}{4}$ to 2d$\frac{1}{2}$
Veal, 5d	3d,	2d to 2d$\frac{1}{2}$
Lamb, 5d	3d,	8d to 9d per quarter.
Pork,	4d,	
Poultry, 3s and 3s 6d per pair,		1s 6d per pair.
Eggs, 4d to 7d per dozen,		2d per dozen.
Butter, 9d or 11d per lib. Tron wt.		5d or 6d per lib. Tron wt.
Cheeſe, 3d or 3d$\frac{1}{2}$ per lib. do.		2d per lib. do.
Meal, 1s or 1s 2d per peck,		7d or 8d per peck.

Harbour.—It does not appear by any record extant, when the preſent harbour was begun. Very probably about the beginning

beginning of this century, the weſt head or pier, had been ſo far carried out. Before that period, it is ſaid, veſſels were loaded and unloaded at low water, by means of a cauſeway, run out into the mud. The eaſt head was begun in the memory of old people yet alive; and had not been built above one third of its preſent length, when an increaſe of trade occaſioned an application to parliament, for an impoſt of two pennies Scots on the pint of ale and beer brought into, or brewed in the town, for repairing and enlarging the harbour. This was obtained in 1744, for 25 years, and was renewed for 25 years longer, in 1767, and extended over the pariſh; and again, in 1794, continued for 21 years, with the addition of an anchorage duty of 1d$\frac{1}{2}$ per ton, on every ſhip entering the harbour. Theſe duties, are under the management of 15 Truſtees, elected from the merchants and ſhip-maſters, who have been enabled, from time to time, to make great improvements on the harbour. One of great importance, a baſon for cleaning the harbour, was executed about 30 years ago, by the late Robert M'Kell, Engineer. A double wall, moated in the heart, was run acroſs between the two piers, incloſing about one fourth of the harbour, on the land ſide, and having 4 ſluices. During ſpring tides, theſe ſluices are regularly opened, and ſhut at full ſea, when a great body of water is retained. At low water, the ſluices are opened; emptying the baſon with ſo rapid a current, that in the courſe of a few years from the erection, a great increaſe to the depth of water in the harbour, was made, and continues to be maintained at a very ſmall expence. This baſon-wall, being of ſimilar breadth with the two piers, has given great accommodation to trade; and from it alſo, a middle pier has been built, parallel to the other two. The addition juſt now finiſhed of 160 feet t the eaſt pier, not only gives more room for ſhipping, but cloſes in the harbour ſo completely, from the

the north and eaſterly ſtorms, to which it had been much expoſed, that at preſent it may be fairly conſidered as one of the ſafeſt harbours in North Britain, and alſo one of the eaſieſt acceſs. The depth of the harbour in ſpring-tides, is from 16 to 18 feet. The piers, baſon, and harbour may include about 2 Engliſh acres. It is propoſed, as ſoon as circumſtances will allow, to have a dry-dock, which can be conveniently ſituated on one ſide of the baſon, and will be another material improvement.

Ship-building and Ships.—At Borrowſtownneſs, ſhip-building has been carried on pretty extenſively for 40 years. There are 2 builders at preſent, of conſiderable eminence in their profeſſion, who employ from 30 to 40 men conſtantly; and build veſſels from 40 to 350 tons burden. One ſhip is now building for a Company at Greenock, of nearly 400 tons.

The ſhipping belonging to the town, are at preſent 25 ſail; whereof 17 are brigantines, of 70 to 170 tons per regiſter; and 8 ſail are ſloops, from 20 to 70 tons per regiſter; employing about 170 men and boys. Of the brigantines, 6 are under contract to ſail regularly once every 14 days, to and from London. They are all fine veſſels, from 147 to 167 tons per regiſter. The remaining 11 brigantines, and 1 of the ſloops, alſo a good veſſel, are chiefly engaged in the Baltic trade. The other 7 ſloops, are for the canal and coaſting. The ſhipping of the port, including all the creeks, are ſaid to be nearly 10,000 tons per regiſter; and thoſe of Borrowſtownneſs, make about one fourth of the whole.

Trade.—Several branches of commercial and mechanical induſtry are carried on at Borrowſtownneſs. A pottery was begun on a ſmall ſcale in the year 1784. Within theſe 3

years, it has been carried on upon a much more extenſive plan. At preſent, it employs nearly 40 perſons; including men, boys, and girls. The clay for the ſtone-ware is imported from Devonſhire. The clay for the earthen-ware is found in the pariſh. Cream-coloured, and white ſtone-ware, plain and painted, and brown earthen-ware, are the articles principally manufactured. A manufacture of ſoap belonging to a company in the town, is carried on to a conſiderable extent. It employs 6 men, and pays annually to Government, about L. 3000 ſterling. Whale-fiſhing has been often and long attempted; but without ſucceſs. It is now entirely given up. Herring-fiſhery was very ſucceſsful in the Frith laſt ſeaſon *. But as it is a new ſpeculation in the place, nothing certain can be ſaid on the ſubject. Small quantities of flounders and whitings are taken during ſtream-tides, in the run of Avon-water, weſt of the harbour, and moſtly by the coalliers who uſe hand-nets. Some likewiſe are taken in cruives. It has long been thought, that this fiſhing might turn out to much more account, were it followed with attention and ſkill, as good haddocks have frequently been caught in the neighbourhood.

Many of the women in this town, and the country around, earn a comfortable ſubſiſtence by ſpinning ſilk, the waſte of Spittalfield's manufacture, ſent by ſea from London to agents here, who return the yarn to be manufactured into ſtockings, epaulets, &c.

Coal and ſalt are the principal exports of the place, and the imports are grain, timber, tallow, hemp, flax, and flax-ſeed,

* Thoſe who are intelligent on the ſubject of this fiſhery, remark, that according to the reſult of the beſt obſervation, the herrings after having ſet into the Frith laſt year, (1794,—95,) in ſuch abundance, may be expected to return in many future years.

ſeed, with other Baltic and Dutch goods. The exportation of coal to Holland, had become very early a conſiderable branch of trade here; and Borrowſtownneſs, for the firſt 50 or 60 years of this century, was a great mart for Dutch goods of all kinds, particularly flax, flax-ſeed, and old iron. But as the manufactures of this country advanced, ſo as to increaſe the demand for Dutch flax, the traders and manufacturers in other places, found their way to a direct importation into their own ports, and though there are ſtill two conſiderable manufactories for dreſſing flax here, and large quantities imported, both for dreſſing and ſelling rough, yet this branch has greatly decreaſed in compariſon with what it once was; and the Baltic trade now chiefly conſiſts in the articles formerly mentioned.

The commerce of this town with the Baltic, as well as that of Leith, Grangemouth, and ſome other places on the eaſt coaſt, was greatly enlarged during the war with America. That country had been in uſe to ſupply Britain before the war, with large quantities of timber, iron, tar, pearl and pot-aſhes. The American trade being ſuſpended by the war, not only all theſe articles were imported from the Baltic to this eaſt coaſt, and by the merchants on this ſide of the iſland; but thoſe of the weſt, to ſave the riſk of capture in a circuitous voyage round the highlands, made their importation of thoſe goods into the Frith of Forth, to be carried from Bo-neſs and Grangemouth, through the great canal, to Glaſgow. Great quantities of tallow and hemp, were alſo brought over during this period. The trade then enjoyed by this and other ports in the neighbourhood, was happily improved, to furniſh the means of an extended commerce for ſeveral years after the peace was concluded, A. D. 1783.

It is only ſince 1793, the commencement of the preſent French war, that the trade of this town has decreaſed, in

common with the commerce of other ports trading to the Baltic; and there is every reaſon to hope for a revival, when the bleſſing of peace ſhall be reſtored; an event earneſtly to be deſired by all the friends of human kind.

The corn-trade, both Britiſh and foreign, is very conſiderable here. In 3 large granaries, and in ſome ſmaller ones, there is very good accommodation for above 15,000 bolls.

Grangemouth, South Queensferry, and North Queensferry, St David's, Inverkeithing, Lime-kilns, Torry, and Culroſs, are united to the Cuſtom-houſe of Borrowſtownneſs; but the annual revenue received, excluding theſe creeks, will, on an average, amount to about L. 4000. The ſalt-duty amounts to about L. 3000 per annum. The buſineſs of the Cuſtom-houſe employs about 44 officers.

Coal and Salt.—Coal is ſaid to have been wrought in this pariſh above 500 years ago, and has been continued more or leſs ſince that period. The depth of the pits now in uſe is about 42 fathoms. The ſeam of coal, is from 10 to 12 feet in thickneſs, and is nearly exhauſted. There are various ſeams, ſome of them of a ſuperior, and others of a very inferior quality. All of them have been wrought in different places, and at different times, to a great extent, particularly in and about Bo-neſs. On the ſouth-eaſt, and on the weſt, there is ſtill a vaſt extent of unwrought coal. It is propoſed, to ſink a pit ſoon on the weſt of the town. The depth, to the principal ſeam in this quarter, may be about 70 fathoms; but there are ſeveral other ſeams at a much leſs depth. Various methods have been adopted, with regard to the manner of working the coal; but in general, what is called ſtoop and throw, has been found the moſt eligible. The average quantity of coal raiſed in 12 months, for ſome time paſt, may be about 44,000 tons. A conſiderable part of the great coal has

been exported, at 7s 9d per ton. The remainder has been diſpoſed of in the coaſting trade, and in the adjacent country. A great many of the chew-coals, are carried by the contract ſhipping to the London market, at 6s per ton. The greateſt part of the ſmall coal is conſumed by the ſalt-works, which conſiſt of 16 pans, and employ about 30 ſalters and labourers. The annual quantity of ſalt made, may be about 37,000 buſhels, which is partly diſpoſed of in the coaſting trade; but chiefly, for the ſupply of the country to the ſouth and weſt of Borrowſtownneſs. It is ſold at 3s 6d per buſhel, including duty. But upon the duty, there is a draw-back of 7d½ per cent, allowed by the Cuſtom-houſe to the purchaſer. It is believed, that the ſalt-works were erected here a conſiderable time before coal-pits were opened; and that in place of coal, wood was applied as fuel. Hence, ſmall coal retains the name of pan-wood.—The number of colliers, coal-bearers, labourers, carters, &c. employed about the coalliery, may be nearly 250.

Eccleſiaſtical State, &c.—The preſent church of Borrowſtownneſs, is a good plain edifice. When the pariſhes were firſt united* in the year 1669, the Duke of Hamilton added a large aiſle for himſelf and his tenants. In this form, the church continued till about 20 years ago, when, purſuant to an agreement between the town and the Duke's Commiſſioners, the aiſle was taken down, and the church nearly rebuilt. The two front-corners were extended as far as the aiſle had gone; and the area within the walls, is now an oblong figure of 69 feet, by 48. The walls and ceiling are handſomely

* It was formerly mentioned, that Bo-neſs is an united pariſh. A little weſt from Kinniel-houſe, the ruins of the old church and burying-ground of Kinniel, are ſtill to be ſeen.

handſomely plaiſtered and ornamented; but the galleries are heavy and ill-conſtructed. When Bo-neſs was firſt detached from Kinniel, the annual intereſt of the ſtock, provided by the inhabitants for the miniſter's ſtipend, did not amount to 800 merks Scots. An Act of Parliament was then obtained by petition, appointing the inhabitants to be aſſeſſed, to make up the ſum; and repreſentatives were to be choſen annually, by common conſent of the town and Kirk-Seſſion, to fix and levy the tax. During the firſt century after the ſeparation from Kinniel, the annual aſſeſſment authoriſed by Parliament for making up the 890 merks of town-ſtipend, was often levied; but for theſe 40 or 50 years paſt, there has been little or no occaſion for any ſuch contribution. The original mortified ſtock had been early inveſted in land, 2 miles ſouth of the town; and it is well known, how much the value of this kind of property has riſen throughout the iſland within theſe 50 years. The land which, during the former leaſe, yielded only about L. 20 per annum, now lets for L. 50; and the tenant having incloſed the whole, as he was bound to do by the terms of his leaſe, it is probable, that the rent will be more than doubled at the expiration of the preſent leaſe *. To the 800 merks Scots given by the town, the Act of Parliament obtained by the Duke and Ducheſs of Hamilton, December 1669, appointed the old ſtipend of Kinniel to be added, and the whole, to be the conſtant ſtipend of the miniſter, ſerving the cure of the united pariſhes,—ordering alſo, that a manſe and glebe ſhould be provided by the Duke and Ducheſs, in place of the old manſe and glebe of Kinniel. The preſent ſtipend in Sterling money, valuing 3 chalders payable in victual, at the legal

* The fund being already more than equal to the payment of the ſtipend, and ordinary repairs on the church and church-yard dykes, the managers have in contemplation, ſome very eſſential improvements upon the avenues around the church, and upon its internal arrangements.

gal converſion of L. 100 Scots the chalder, amounts to L. 83:6:8d; beſides coals, a glebe, conſiſting of 4 arable acres, and 2 of very good paſture; alſo houſe-rent, in lieu of a manſe, which has not yet been provided by the family of Hamilton. The Duke is alſo at the expence of Communion-elements. His Grace is undoubted patron of the pariſh.

There are 5 ſchools in the town and pariſh, well attended. The Parochial ſchoolmaſter, commonly employs an aſſiſtant, and has generally from 80 to 90 ſcholars. He has a ſalary of 200 merks Scots, (L. 11:2:2⅔,) beſides the perquiſites of his office as Seſſion-clerk; and the ſums paid for education at his ſchool, which are as follows,

Engliſh and Writing by the quarter,	L. 0	2	6
Latin or French, by ditto. -	0	5	0
Arithmetic and other branches of Mathematics,	0	3	6
Navigation or Book-keeping, per courſe,	1	1	0

The poor in the pariſh, are pretty numerous. The funds for their ſupport, are the following,

Weekly collections at the Church door, amounting annually to about, - -	L. 82	0	0
Rent of landed property, -	16	12	6
Intereſt of a bond and a late Legacy,	38	11	2
Mort-cloth dues *, annually about † -	2	5	0
	L. 139	8	8

The

* At the burials of the poor people, a cuſtom, almoſt obſolete in other parts of Scotland, is continued here. The beadle perambulates the ſtreets with a bell, and intimates the death of the individual in the following language: "All brethren and ſiſters, I let ye to wit, there is a brother (or ſiſter) departed, at the pleaſure of the Almighty, (here he lifts his hat,) called ——. All thoſe that come to the burial, come at — o'clock. The corpſe is at ——." He alſo walks before the corpſe to the church-yard, ringing his bell.

† The annual amount of mort-cloth dues at the diſpoſal of the Seſſion is trifling, as the people in the country part of the pariſh, and the different corporations

The penſioners who receive regular ſupply at preſent, are in number 36. Occaſional ſupplies, upon proper recommendation, are often appointed to ſuch perſons as are reduced to temporary diſtreſs. Upon any preſſing emergency, the liberality of the opulent part of the inhabitants, is exemplary. During the late ſevere winter, near L. 60 ſterling were collected, and diſtributed in the moſt judicious manner, by a committee of gentlemen in the town. Begging is ſtill common; but the paupers who go about from houſe to houſe, are, for the moſt part, from other pariſhes.

Roads and Milns.—Beſides ſeveral croſs-roads, two public roads run through the pariſh; one from Borrowſtownneſs, leading ſouth to Linlithgow, and the Cleugh iron-works, in pretty good order, upon which there are ſeveral toll-bars; another running eaſt and weſt, (by the water ſide,) frequented by travellers from Falkirk and Queensferry. On the river Avon, which ſkirts the pariſh on the ſouth and weſt, there are 5 milns, the property of the Duke of Hamilton. To the 2 corn-milns, all the barony of Kinniel are thirled with their oats, and pay as dues the 17th part or peck. Farmers from other pariſhes, pay only the half of this multure. There are 2 flour-milns, which grind flour for Falkirk, Borrowſtownneſs, &c. The fifth miln was built for the purpoſe of grinding malt, for the brewers in Borrowſtownneſs; but is employed at preſent, in grinding flint for the pottery formerly mentioned. The river Avon is a fine ſtream, well fitted for the purpoſes of machinery. Falls of conſiderable height may found; and there is plenty of water, unleſs when the drought of ſummer is uncommonly ſevere. The water is alſo perfectly

corporations in the town, ſuch as the ſailors and maltmen, keep one, and receive the emoluments.

fectly pure, except when the torrents ruſh impetuous from the hills, after heavy rains.

Minerals and Antiquities.—Beſides coal already mentioned, iron ſtone is dug from a bank in the neighbourhood of Borrowſtownneſs, and is ſaid to abound in other parts of the pariſh. Quarries of excellent granite and free-ſtone, are alſo wrought on the ſouth and weſt of the town. Lime-ſtone is to be found on the weſt end of the pariſh. A draw-kiln was erected about 20 years ago, and the work carried on to a conſiderable extent; but the quantity and quality of the lime not anſwering expectation, it has been diſcontinued.

The Roman wall between Forth and Clyde, well known in the Hiſtory of Scotland, runs through the high grounds, the whole length of the pariſh. It is ſtill diſtinctly viſible on the eaſt bank of the Avon. At Inver-avon the ruins of a Roman tower ſtill remain. It has been built of common free ſtone, and ſtands in a very conſpicuous place. It appears from the foundation, that the building muſt have been pretty extenſive; and were the rubbiſh cleared away, perhaps farther information on the ſubject might be obtained for the antiquarian. In a window of the adjacent farm-houſe, there is a ſtone with ſeveral hieroglyphic characters, which, although much venerated for their antiquity, are not underſtood.

Proſpects.—From the brow of the hill, behind the town of Bo-neſs, the aſcent is gradual to the ſouth, for more than a mile and a half; and the proſpect ſtill varying and extending, is inexpreſſibly grand and beautiful. On the eaſt, the horizon is boundleſs, the proſpect reaching the Pentland-hills, Arthur's-ſeat, Edinburgh caſtle, and the German ocean. On

the north-weſt, are ſeen a number of gentlemen's ſeats, and plantations around them, the whole range of Ochil-hills, the celebrated Grampian mountains, Campſie hills, and the towering top of Benlomond. This proſpect, which includes alſo a view of the towns on the oppoſite coaſt, muſt charm the ſpectator of taſte, and afford high entertainment to all who take pleaſure in contemplating the ſublime and variegated works of nature and art. From the high grounds in a clear day, the eye may take a pleaſing range over part of 11 counties, in cultivation equal, if not ſuperior, to any in Scotland.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—When the navigation by the canal between Forth and Clyde was firſt projected, it was the general opinion, that from the advantageous ſituation of this town and its harbour, the eaſt termination ſhould have been here, and not at Grange-burn. It would ſerve no good purpoſe at preſent, to point out the cauſes which combined to place the termination otherwiſe. Suffice it to ſay, the public would, in all probability, have been much better accommodated, and Bo-neſs would have increaſed ten fold. To prevent this town from ſuffering the diſadvantages apprehended from the termination of the canal at Grange-burn, a ſubſcription was opened in the year 1782, on an eſtimate for a canal of communication from the harbour of Borrowſtownneſs to Grangemouth, ſuppoſed to coſt about L. 12,000, and ſubſcriptions for L. 10,000 were procured. The canal was cut from Avon-water eaſtward, within a mile of the town, and an aqueduct bridge of ſtone built for croſſing the Avon. The expence, however, of this work, and that of procuring two Acts of Parliament, together with ſalaries and heavy incidental charges, had, in 1789, exhauſted half the ſubſcription. Doubts were then entertained, whether the navigation could be properly executed for the eſtimate, as the works

next the town were foreſeen to be very expenſive. It was judged prudent to have a new ſurvey by that eminent engineer, Mr Robert Whitworth; who reported, "That to "complete the canal properly, L. 17,000 would be wanted." By this time, not L. 4000 good money remained, and the work was relinquiſhed, till new funds ſhould be raiſed; which unfortunately have never yet been procured, and when they ſhall be obtained, is at preſent uncertain. The return of peace, with a reviving commerce, may perhaps encourage former ſubſcribers, or animate new ones, to finiſh a work of public utility; and which would be of ſo much local advantage to this town and the adjacent country.

It is highly probable, that all the low ground in the pariſh, was formerly part of the bed of the river Forth. This opinion eaſily gains aſſent, becauſe immediately at the bottom of the bank, far from the ſhore, and far above the level of the preſent ſpring-tides, ſhells, particularly oyſter-ſhells, are to be ſeen in ſeveral places, and in great quantities. At low-water, above 2000 acres oppoſite to the pariſh are left dry. It is ſaid, that a Dutch company offered, for a leaſe of 99 years, to fence off the ſea from theſe acres with a dyke, to prepare them for the purpoſes of agriculture, which would have been a vaſt acceſſion to the carſe grounds of the pariſh. But the project failed, and a large extent of ground remains uſeleſs, ſhewing its face twice every 24 hours, to reproach the faſtidiouſneſs and indolence of mankind.

It appears, as far as the writer of this account has had an opportunity to learn, that the natives of the town and pariſh of Bo-neſs, are fond of a ſea-faring life. Many able-bodied ſeamen from this place, are at preſent in his Majeſty's ſervice; and are diſtinguiſhed for their ſobriety, courage, and loyalty. Adventurers from the place, are alſo to be found in the moſt diſtant parts of the globe.—The inhabitants of the town are

in general ſober and induſtrious, and ſupport a reſpectable character. The inferior ranks are quiet and regular; the ſuperior ranks well-bred, hoſpitable, and public-ſpirited. Though indulgence over the glaſs, a characteriſtic of the preſent age, is too frequent, intemperance or rioting is ſeldom to be ſeen on the ſtreets. Religion, it muſt be regretted, is too much neglected; yet the ſabbath-day is decently obſerved, and divine worſhip attended by all, except by thoſe who from ignorance, or from habits of irregularity, are inſenſible to the ſolid comforts and ſatisfaction which ariſe from a life of religion and virtue.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVII.

PARISHES OF FOSSAWAY & TULLIEBOLE.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS.)

By the Rev. Mr GRAHAM.

Origin of the Names of Foſſaway and Tulliebole.

THE Scots were anciently a nation of warriors; and when not engaged againſt the common enemy, the chieftains often turned their arms againſt one another. When at peace, their time was employed in hunting, and they naturally diſtinguiſhed their hunting grounds, by the various ſorts of game with which they abounded. Hence the name of Foſſaway, or in the original Gaelic, Faſach Fheidh, pronounced Faſach-hay, is literally "the deſart of deer," to diſtinguiſh it from the range of mountains to the weſtward, called in the original, Mueard, or "the height where the bears reſorted." In the Duke of Atholl's charter, it is written Foſſowhey, which is very near the original orthography. The deſart of deer, correſponds with the deſcription of Oſſian. He makes Fingal ſay to Swaran, "The deſart is enough for me with all "its deer and woods."

Tulliebole literally ſignifies the Poet's hill: For it is well underſtood, that every chief had his own bard. By him the poems

poems concerning the anceſtors of the family, were handed down to poſterity, and were repeated to the whole clan on ſolemn occaſions. Tulliebole, therefore, ſeems to have been the reſidence, at a very early period, of ſome independent chief, in the ſame manner that Tullibardine, or the hill of the bards, was the ſeat of the chieftain of the Murrays.

Formerly Foſſaway and Tulliebole were two ſeparate pariſhes, and each had its own paſtor and church. The annexation, it is ſaid, took place ſometime about the year 1614. In the Advocates Library, there is an ancient manuſcript, which is entitled, "Regiſter of Aſſignations for the Miniſters' Stipends, "for the year 1574." In this manuſcript, the ſtipends of the readers of the two pariſhes, are ſeparately ſtated thus: "John Henderſon, reader at Tulliebole, his ſtipend, L. 16, "with the kirk-land, to be paid out of the third of the abbacy of Culroſs," &c. And, "Mr Adam Marſhall, reader "at Foſſoquhy, his ſtipend, L. 26:14:4, paid thereof, out "of the third of the abbacy of Cowpar, by the tackſmen or "pariſhioners of Foſſoquhy, as the reader ſhall chooſe."

Foſſaway lies in the county of Perth, Tulliebole in Kinroſſhire, and both are within the bounds of the preſbytery of Auchterarder, and the Synod of Perth and Stirling. In Keith's Catalogue of the Scots Biſhops, there is an Alphabetical Table of all the Pariſhes in Scotland, with the names of the Shire, Dioceſe, Preſbytery, and Commiſſariot, in which each of them is ſituated; in which Foſſaway is thus ſtated, 1688.

Pariſhes.	*Shires.*	*Dioceſe.*	*Preſbytery.*	*Commiſſariot.*
Foſſaway, whereto Tulliebole annexed.	Perth.	Dumblane.	Auchterarder.	Dumblane.

This is evidence, that both pariſhes were at an early period in the Dioceſe of Dumblane. After the annexation down to the year 1729, the two places of worſhip, the one at Foſſa-

way

way, and the other at Tulliebole, were ſtill retained, and the miniſter who ſerved the cure, preached two ſabbaths at Foſſaway, and the third at Tulliebole, regularly, and his houſe was at Foſſaway. In that year, both the old churches were thrown down, the manſe and glebe at Foſſaway were ſold; the preſent glebe and church-yard, which are ſituated in the pariſh of Tulliebole, were purchaſed; and a new church and manſe were built, in a ſituation more centrical to both pariſhes, and more convenient for the incumbent.

Miniſters Names on Record.—The firſt found on the Seſſion Regiſter (1609), is Mr Laurence Mercer. It appears that he was alive in the year 1634. From that period, there is a deficiency in the regiſter. The next mentioned is Mr Alexander Ireland, in the year 1661. He was alive, in 1687. Then the regiſter is again deficient. It cannot therefore be aſcertained, in what years theſe clergymen were ordained, or when they died. It is evident, however, that they were both of the Epiſcopal church, belonged to the Dioceſe of Dumblane, were ſtrict obſervers of church diſcipline, and were exceedingly attentive to every part of their Parochial duty. Seſſional buſineſs is recorded at conſiderable length; public worſhip is mentioned as regularly performed, and the collections for the poor, which were made every ſabbath-day, are diſtinctly marked. During their incumbencies, the pariſh was ſeldom without divine ſervice on the Lord's day; almoſt never without having a reaſon aſſigned in the record; ſuch as, that the miniſter was aſſiſting his brethren, or was unable to officiate. With regard to Mr Ireland, beſides ſuch reaſons as theſe, there are other four mentioned ſomewhat ſingular. It is ſaid in the regiſter,

"No ſermon; becauſe the miniſter was at the conſecration "in Edinburgh."

"No

"No ſermon; becauſe the miniſter was called to Dum-
"blane to wait upon the biſhop."

"No ſermon; becauſe the miniſter was under the neceſſity
"of attending Lord Rollo's burial at Dunning."

"No ſermon; becauſe the miniſter was in the Stormont
"ſeeing his aged father, who was labouring under great
"diſtreſs."

Theſe avocations happened at different times, betwixt the year 1661, and the year 1687. There is a deficiency in the regiſter, from 1687, to 1691; but from that period, down to the preſent day, the records are compleat, containing every parochial tranſaction, relative to church affairs. Five clergymen are mentioned as ſucceeding one another, whoſe names follow.

Mr William Spence, admitted 21ſt September 1691; died 23d March 1715. Mr Alexander Barton, ordained 23d April 1712; died 14th June 1716. Mr Barton, was ordained aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor to Mr Spence, 3 years before his death, and did not ſurvive him 15 months. Mr Andrew Ure, admitted 25th of April 1717; died 7th April 1742. To him ſucceeded Mr John Storer, ordained 25th Auguſt 1743; died 8th June 1778. All thoſe miniſters are remembered by ſome of the pariſhioners, who are ſtill alive; and their memory is ſtill held in great reſpect.

Patron.—In the ſettlements of all the incumbents which have been mentioned, no patron appeared. They were elected by the heritors, elders, and heads of families. At the laſt vacancy, it was doubtful to whom the right of patronage belonged. It was claimed by the crown, and by George Graham, Eſq of Kinroſs. There were of conſequence two preſentees. The right of patronage was afterwards determined by the Court of Seſſion; and was found to be veſted

in

in Mr Graham, by a ſpecial grant from the crown. The preſent incumbent was ordained on Mr Graham's preſentation, 11th of May 1780.

Church, Manſe, Glebe and Stipend.—The church and manſe, as formerly mentioned, were built in their preſent ſituation, in 1729. The church is neither commodious, nor in good repair, although it has received frequent reparations ſince it was built. The manſe and office-houſes were rebuilt in the year 1781, and are neat and convenient enough; but not ſo ſufficiently executed, as might have been expected from the ſum of money expended on them. Heritors, when they are building churches or manſes, ought to endeavour to have them, at leaſt, ſubſtantially finiſhed. This would in the end, ſave them a good deal of expence. One would imagine, that a manſe, which coſts L. 300, might be ſo built, as to ſtand at leaſt a century. This, however, was not the caſe with the former one at Foſſaway, which was thrown down in its 51ſt year, by conſent of the heritors, who were wearied out in repairing it. Owing to the peculiar ſituation of this country, the greater part of the houſes ſtand nearly eaſt and weſt; and as the moſt violent weather, and greateſt hurricanes come from the weſt, it is found to be a very hard taſk to make the weſt gabel proof againſt the rain. Particular attention ſhould be given to this circumſtance, in every houſe built in this part of the country.

The glebe now occupied by the incumbent, is about 10 Scotch acres. It was formerly a muir, and is a very poor ſoil. In the year 1729, it was purchaſed for L. 29 : 8s ſter. Its ſoil is a mixture of moſs and gravel, few inches deep in many places; and lies partly on a bed of moſs, but moſtly on a bed of very fine ſand.

The ſtipend of the pariſh conſiſted of 40 bolls; two thirds meal, and one third bear; and L. 56 : 13 : 4d ſter. in money.

On a proceſs, at the inſtance of the preſent miniſter, the Court has lately granted an augmentation, conſiſting of 43 bolls, 3 pecks, 1 lippie, 2 thirds in meal, and 1 third in bear, making the preſent ſtipend to conſiſt of 83 bolls, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie, 2 thirds in meal, and 1 third in barley, and L. 56 : 13 : 4d in money.

Situation and Extent.—Foſſaway conſiſts of two branches, entirely ſeparated from each other by Tulliebole, which intervenes, having one of thoſe branches on the northern, and the other on the ſouthern ſide of it. As the church of Foſſaway ſtood on the northern branch, thoſe families, who dwelt on the ſouthern, were under the neceſſity of paſſing either through Tulliebole, or the pariſh of Muckart, before they could come to the place of worſhip. This circumſtance ſeems firſt to have led to the junction of the two pariſhes, and then to the removal of the church and manſe, from their former ſituation, to the place where they now ſtand, which is much more convenient and centrical. The northern branch of Foſſaway, extends along the Ochil hills, from eaſt to weſt, and is about 6 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. Tulliebole lies on the lower ground, extending from the bottom of the Ochil hills on the north, towards the Clieſh hills on the ſouth; and from the Crook of Dovan on the weſt, to about half way to Kinroſs on the eaſt. Its ſouthern ſide juts out both to the eaſt and weſt, nearly an Engliſh mile farther than its northern ſide. Cutting off theſe two corners, the remaining ſpace will be about 3 miles ſquare. To the ſouthern ſide of the pariſh of Tulliebole, is joined the ſouthern branch of Foſſaway, running in a ſouth-weſt direction, for nearly 8 miles in length, and at an average, 2 and a half in breadth. The two pariſhes taken together, do not form a regular figure; but they are bounded in the following manner;

ner; on the eaſt, by the pariſhes of Orwell and Kinroſs; on the ſouth, by Cleiſh and Saline; on the weſt, by Clackmannan, Dollar, Muckart, and Glen-dovan; and on the north, by the pariſh of Dunning.

A map of the pariſh of Foſſaway, as forming a part of the county of Perth, has been drawn by Mr Stobie, factor to the Duke of Atholl; and a map of Tulliebole, in conjunction with the county of Kinroſs, by Mr John Bell, land-ſurveyor at Edinburgh. Both theſe maps are executed with accuracy, in as far as they regard the two pariſhes; but it is not known to the writer of this account, if they have aſcertained the number of acres contained in them. Though both the maps are executed with preciſion, they differ from the deſcription which is given here. The reaſon is this, above a century ago, the barony of Carnboe, in the northern part of the pariſh of Foſſaway, was, by an Act of Parliament, disjoined from the county of Perth, and annexed to the county of Kinroſs. It is ſtill conſidered, as belonging to the pariſh of Foſſaway; but is of courſe, omitted in the map of the county of Perth, and comprehended in Mr Bell's map of Kinroſs-ſhire.

By the Act of Parliament lately paſſed for raiſing men for his Majeſty's Navy out of every county, the whole of the pariſh of Foſſaway is joined with the county of Kinroſs. This naturally leads to the following obſervation; that it would be more convenient for Foſſaway, if it were for ever annexed to Kinroſs. The diſtance from Kinroſs, is only 6 miles of fine road; the diſtance from Perth, is 21 miles over the Ochil hills. To be obliged to go to Perth for all the buſineſs which muſt be tranſacted there, is attended with a very conſiderable degree both of trouble and expence. There is not a reſiding Juſtice of the Peace in the whole pariſh of Foſſaway. If it were united to Kinroſs-ſhire, it would be

equally in the vicinity of the county courts, and of the Juſtices of the Peace.

Climate, Surface, Soil and Air.—The lands in both pariſhes are in a high ſituation; the froſt begins ſooner, the ſnow falls earlier, and both continue a longer time than in moſt of the neighbouring pariſhes. Except on the banks of the river Dovan, or at the bottom of the hills, where the effect of the ſun is conſiderable, the northern branch of Foſſaway is the coldeſt diſtrict. It is one continued range of hills. The hills are of various heights, from 600, perhaps to 1100 feet perpendicular above the level of the ſea; yet they afford excellent paſture, both for ſheep and black-cattle. Some of the hills have moſs and heath; but the greateſt part of them is covered with graſs, to the very ſummit. Tulliebole, and the ſouthern branch of Foſſaway, lying lower, are warmer. On theſe parts, there are ſome moſs, ſome marſhy ground, and ſome little hills; but by far the greateſt part is arable land. The ſoil is various; ſome gravelly; ſome clay; ſome tilly; ſome loam; and all theſe ſoils are capable of conſiderable improvement. Tulliebole, although in appearance it reſembles a plain country, when compared with the hills on the north and ſouth; yet contains the higheſt grounds of any pariſh in the plain, between Stirling and Kinroſs. Here the ſprings of water divide themſelves, ſome running weſt towards Stirling, others eaſt towards Kinroſs. In a dry ſummer, there are more frequently flying ſhowers here, than any where around. Theſe ſhowers are ſometimes ſeen coming from the ſouth-weſt, along the Ochil-hills, and the Cleiſh hills at the ſame time; and when they come oppoſite to Tulliebole, a part of them has been obſerved to ſeparate on both ſides, from the main body of the clouds, and meet on a riſing ground, adjoining to the Crook of Dovan. From

e attraction of the hills on either ſide, there is more cloudy nd rainy weather, and later ſeaſons here, than in many other iſtricts; yet the ſituation is abundantly healthful; the high inds carry off the vapours; and the ſtreams of water having reat declivities on every hand, little ſtagnating water remains; nd when the ſky is clear, the air is uncommonly pure and ry.

Diſeaſes.—There are no peculiar diſeaſes which prevail in e pariſh. An ague, or a bloody-flux, are ſeldom heard of; vers are perhaps more common than any other diſeaſe. A ver, which at its firſt appearance, ſeemed to be of the ner-ous kind, but which in the end became putrid, carried off ny about 2 years ago. Few families eſcaped; and it ex-nded to many of the pariſhes around. The medicine which oved moſt ſucceſsful, was the jeſuits bark given with port-ine. This remedy when applied in time, under the direc-on of a profeſſional man, was commonly ſucceſsful. We metimes hear of a conſumption; of a cancer; and of a ropſy. A few years ago, a woman died, who had been pped for a dropſy 16 times, and after all recovered. The uantity of water taken from her at theſe different times, as calculated to be 34 Scotch pints. She died, when far dvanced in life, not of a dropſy, but of complaints ariſing om old age. Rheumatic complaints are not uncommon. hildren frequently die of the ſmall-pox. Againſt inocula-ion, there is amongſt the lower claſſes of the people, an lmoſt univerſal prejudice, of a religious nature, which nei-her example, nor precept, nor the reaſonable terms upon hich inoculation can be obtained, have yet overcome.

Though the two pariſhes taken together, form a large and opulous diſtrict, there is not a phyſician, nor a ſurgeon, or a midwife in either. Women in child-bed have, how-

ever,

ever, good aſſiſtance at no great diſtance; and they are, in general, very fortunate. Good medical aid is alſo to be h from all the neighbouring towns. It is alſo reaſonable acknowledge with gratitude, that the united pariſhes under peculiar obligations to the Royal Infirmary of Edi burgh. Several perſons, of late, labouring under vario complaints, have been received into the Infirmary, reco mended to the phyſicians by heritors, or by the miniſter, of whom received great benefit from their reſidence ther and moſt of whom were fully reſtored to health. If the nances of that houſe ſhould at any time be deficient, t managers are well entitled to the public aid.

Population.

Annual Baptiſms, Marriages, Burials, at an average of ten years

35	9	25

The number of inhabitants at preſent, is 1505. Of the 1065 belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church; there are 388 An burgher-ſeceders; 48 Burghers; 2 Epiſcopalians; 1 Cam ronian; and 1 Roman Catholic.

Under 10 years of age,	Males	138	Females	- 1
Betwixt 10 and 20	-	176	———	- 1
——— 20 and 50	-	272	———	- 3
——— 50 and 70	-	112	———	- 1
——— 70 and 80	-	23	———	-
——— 80 and 90	-	6	———	-
	Total Males	727	Total Females	7

The females exceed the males in number 51. The old perſon in the pariſh, is a woman, who completes her 90 year in December next. She is ſtill able to walk, and ſpi

in, and ſees more diſtinctly, than when at the age of 70. The number of married perſons is 456, and the number of children from each marriage, between 5 and 6. The number of families is 340, and the number of perſons in each family, between 4 and 5. The number of inhabitants has been decreaſing for ſeveral years. In the year 1755, by the return made to Dr Webſter, the number was 1765. In the year 1771, it was 1828; in the year 1780, 1716; in the year 1785, 1610; and it has been ſtated as at preſent only 1505. Many reaſons can be given for this diminution of numbers. A few years ago, ſeveral weavers, maſons, and houſe-carpenters, with their families, went into towns, where they found more ready employment, and higher wages. Several gentlemen having incloſed their lands, they have let them in graſs, and have no fixed tenants; others, having taken the poſſeſſion of them into their own hands, and going on with their improvements, have diſmiſſed ſeveral of their cottagers; the new mode of ploughing without a driver, which now very much prevails, has leſſened the number of farm-ſervants; and the union of different farms has alſo had its influence. When agriculture is carried on by employing cottagers, they not only remain longer than other ſervants on the ſame farms, but by having families, and a ſettled reſidence, they add greatly to the number of the inhabitants. Hired ſervants frequently change their ſituations every half-year, and having nothing to attach them to one ſpot, ſeldom continue long with any one maſter. To give encouragement to cottagers, and villages, on proper regulations, would be of ſervice both to proprietors, and to the community at large.

Stature, and general Character of the Inhabitants.—The ſtature of the inhabitants is not above the middle ſize. The height of the talleſt man in the pariſh, is about 6 feet 4 inches.

ches. It hath been obſerved, that thoſe of the middle ſize are in general more robuſt, have fewer complaints, and live longer, than thoſe who are above the ordinary ſtature. Although few of the original inhabitants of the pariſh have been much diſtinguiſhed by their talents, they are not deſtitute of natural abilities. Their natural diſpoſitions are friendly, generous, and humane. They are contented with their ſituations, and are not diſpoſed to leave the place of their nativity. Their religious principles are various, as appears from what is already ſtated. Few, except the gentlemen, converſed much about political affairs, till the works of Thomas Paine appeared. Since that time, the people converſe more frequently on thoſe topics. It is, however, but doing them juſtice to ſay, that they are firmly attached to the Conſtitution of this country, as eſtabliſhed at the Acceſſion of King William, and to the perſon and government of his preſent Majeſty. They are in general active, and induſtrious. Beſides the buſineſs of agriculture, they apply to the common trades practiſed in the country. There are taylors, ſhoemakers, blackſmiths, maſons, carpenters, and weavers; all of them well employed, and able to provide for their families. The day-wages of a taylor, is 8d, and 9d, beſides his victuals; of a maſon and carpenter, from 1s 6d, to 2s. Weavers are employed partly in the manufacture of the cloth uſed in the pariſh; and partly by the manufacturers of the neighbouring towns. There is only one baker in the pariſh. The inhabitants for whom his labour is not ſufficient, receive a ſupply from the towns in the vicinity.

Parochial Improvements.—1. Houſes. Within the laſt 12 years, 24 new houſes have been built; though from the removal of tenants and cottagers, a greater number have either fallen into ruins within that period, or have been demoliſhed.

demoliſhed. The greater part of the houſes lately built, are intended for the accommodation of the proprietors of land; and are built with ſtone and lime, in a very convenient and ſubſtantial manner, ſuited to the property and revenues of their owners. There are two ancient houſes in the pariſhes, commonly diſtinguiſhed by the name of caſtles, or towers; that of Tulliebole, and that of Aldie. They are both places of ſtrength, or fortalices, with gun-holes and turrets, ſuitable to the times in which they were built. The caſtle of Tulliebole was built in the year 1608; the caſtle of Aldie, in the century preceding. The one is the family ſeat of Moncreiff-Wellwood of Tulliebole, the other of Mercer of Aldie. As the proprietors, however, do not reſide in them, they are faſt going into diſ-repair; yet it is hoped, and indeed it is pleaſing to the country to think, that thoſe monuments of antiquity may ſtill be kept up. At no great expence, they may be made to ſtand for centuries. In different parts of the pariſhes, there are houſes built adjoining to each other, to the number of 10 or 12; poſſeſſed partly by feuars and tenants, and partly by cottagers; yet theſe are not known by the name of villages. There are only two villages in the pariſhes; one at the Crook of Dovan, and the other at Blairingone. They are both burghs of barony. The former holds of the family of Tulliebole, the latter belongs to the family of Atholl; both of them have the privilege of holding markets. At the Crook of Dovan, there are two markets annually, the one in May, the other in October. At Blairingone, there is one held in the month of June. Little buſineſs is tranſacted at the Blairingone markets; but the Crook markets, which are for black-cattle, being pretty well attended, may with attention and care, be brought to conſiderable perfection, and prove very ſerviceable to the country at large. The only public houſes in the pariſhes, are in thoſe villages;

two at the Crook of Dovan, and two at Blairingone. They may perhaps be all neceſſary, as, independant of the markets, both villages are on the high road, and Blairingone adjoining the Duke of Atholl's coal-work; but it is univerſally found, that too many houſes, where ardent ſpirits are ſold, do hurt both to the morals and circumſtances of the people.

2. Incloſures. Since the year 1782, above 2000 acres of land have been incloſed. The fences are partly made with ſtone, partly with ditch and hedge. The incloſures are of various dimenſions, ſuch as beſt ſuited the ſituation, deſign, and extent of the farms; they are of all ſizes, from 5 to 40 acres. Where they are intended only for paſture, they extend to nearly an 100 acres. A ſtone dyke is the moſt immediate, and moſt ſecure fence. A hedge in this climate, is ſlow in growing, but when reared, ſerves both to beautify and ſhelter the grounds; and this country, lying high, being much expoſed, and having hitherto little advantage from trees, ſtands much in need of ſhelter. Proprietors, however, are providing on their lands, a remedy for theſe inconveniences, by planting.

3. Planting. Planting till of late was not much attended to; there is indeed ſome natural wood, and ſome ſmall plantations, in various parts of the pariſhes, which have been advancing for a conſiderable time. They are ſufficient to ſhew, that trees will flouriſh in the ſoil. This is indeed demonſtrated by the trees, which according to an old cuſtom, obſerved in moſt parts of Scotland, have been planted around the barn-yards. Theſe, which conſiſt chiefly of aſh, plane, and Scotch fir, have grown, even in the higheſt grounds, to a very conſiderable ſize, conſidering the time when they were planted. Planting is, however, now become faſhionable, and is proceeding with rapidity. Within the laſt 8 years, about 800,000 trees have been planted. Some of them on the

the lands of Tulliebole; ſome of them on the northern, but the greateſt number on the ſouthern branch of Foſſaway. They are partly in larger plantations, partly in ſmaller ſtripes; and where they are ſufficiently fenced, are, in general, in a thriving ſtate. The trees are of various kinds; Scotch fir, plane, larch, oak, elm, beech, aſh, ſpruce fir, and laburnum. The Scotch fir are in the greateſt number; and the larch grows quickeſt. The laſt will ſoon add greatly to the beauty of the country, and afford excellent ſhelter.

Cultivation and Produce of the Pariſhes.—Some of the original inhabitants ſtill retain the old method of ploughing, uſing the old Scotch plough, and joining oxen with horſes. Thoſe who are attached to the old modes of farming, are ſo far from troubling themſelves with improvements, that they are not fond of changes of any kind. If a large ſtone lies in the field, or, if the furrows are drawn crooked, they are unwilling to remove the one, or alter the other; obſerving that they were ſo in their fathers days, and that the crops were as good then as they are now. The greateſt part of the farmers have happily different views. The new method of ploughing with two horſes, and Small's plough, is very generally adopted. In the improvement of their lands, a conſiderable number of the farmers ſpare neither pains nor expence. They bring ploughmen from every quarter, and have brought the art of ploughing to a very high degree of perfection. The number of ploughs cannot be aſcertained; becauſe on the ſame quantity of land, the number varies according to the culture in uſe. The ploughs in the pariſh of Foſſaway, according to the ſtatute work, are upwards of 50; thoſe of the pariſh of Tulliebole, about 24; more ploughs, however, are occaſionally uſed. Beſides, ſeveral of the proprietors

and farmers, keep young horſes for the harrow. Becauſe the froſt continues long in the ſpring, they ſow, in general, later than the people on the coaſt, and conſequently reap later. Wheat has been tried in Tulliebole, and in the ſouthern part of Foſſaway; but the climate and ſoil are perhaps againſt it. The ſureſt crops are oats, barley, and peaſe. The greateſt part of Tulliebole, and the low lying parts of the northern branch of Foſſaway, are of a ſharp gravelly ſoil, and ſeldom fail in producing good crops. The ſouthern branch of Foſſaway, being a mixture of loam and clay, will alſo bring forward beans, and in good ſeaſons wheat. Theſe are not, however, ſo ſure a crop as oats, barley, and peaſe. Both pariſhes taken together, not only ſerve themſelves with grain, but ſend a conſiderable quantity to market. Lint is every where ſown for family uſe, and when properly managed makes a good return. All green crops, if the ſeaſon is not very unfavourable, ſucceed well. Potatoes, turnips, clover, and rye-graſs, when the ground is properly prepared, ſeldom fail. On the eſtate of Foſſaway, from which the pariſh derives its name, which lies high, being ſituated partly on the Ochil hills, very conſiderable improvements are at preſent carrying on, by the proprietor, who poſſeſſes part of the lands himſelf. Laſt ſeaſon, there was raiſed a rich crop of turnips, to a large extent; and nearly 300 bolls of potatoes, which were exceedingly fine. This ſeaſon (1795), not only graſs, but almoſt every other crop promiſes well; not only there, but in ſeveral other parts of both pariſhes.

Proprietors, Farmers, Farms and Rent.—Thoſe who poſſeſs lands, either as proprietors, or tenants, are above 120; beſides a few tradeſmen and cottagers, who poſſeſs as much ground as will maintain one or two cows. Theſe ſmall portions of land, are here called pendicles, as depending upon,

upon, either the proprietors land, or the larger tenants, from whom they are ſet off, for ſervices or labour performed by the perſons who occupy them. None of the moſt conſiderable heritors reſide in the pariſh; but almoſt the whole of the ſmall proprietors and feuars do. The junction of farms does not happen ſo often as it otherwiſe might, becauſe the chief part of the ſmaller heritors poſſeſs their own lands, which have neither increaſed nor diminiſhed for many years. There are farms of all dimenſions, from L. 10 to L. 100 per annum. There are none above L. 100, poſſeſſed by tenants, except 3; and one of theſe is rented at L. 300 per annum. Several heritors, however, poſſeſs their own lands, which would let at above L. 100 a-year. The value of ſheep farms, may be nearly 3s per acre; the arable, from 5s to 10s; and the incloſed lands, from 15s to above L. 1. This is a great encouragement to improvement; for which, notwithſtanding all that is done, there is ſtill great room. The valued rent of the 2 pariſhes, is L. 4106: 16s Scots. The real rent cannot be ſo well aſcertained; becauſe many of the heritors having poſſeſſed their own lands from time immemorial, they have not been let on leaſe. The whole rent, however, may be ſafely calculated above L. 4000 ſterling per annum. That this is the caſe will be evident, when it is conſidered, that there is, including both pariſhes, nearly 30,000 Engliſh acres of land. Allowing 6000 for moſs, water, woods, and rocks, there will ſtill remain 24,000 acres; which, if rented only at 3s 4d per acre, will amount to L. 4000.

The ſize or extent of farms, has never been fixed here; and it would, indeed, be difficult to fix it; as men, no doubt, would be divided in their opinions. It would, however, be for the advantage both of the proprietors, and the country, that cultivated farms ſhould neither be too large, nor too ſmall.

There

There is one circumſtance, which deſerves the attention both of proprietors and tenants. A ſufficient diſtinction is not always made betwixt the qualifications which fit a tenant for managing an arable, and thoſe which are adapted to a ſheep-farm. The ſame talents do not render him equally capable of managing both. Tenants are very careful, not to diſcover their want of knowledge in either, when they are anxious to obtain a farm; and perſons often obtain ſheep-farms, of which they have no knowledge, who would have managed a cultivated farm well; while others obtain a cultivated farm which they cannot manage, who delighted in, and ſucceeded in rearing ſheep. Indeed it ſeldom happens, that one who has been long accuſtomed to manage ſheep, has ever much ſucceſs in cultivating the ground; eſpecially, if he is advanced in life. But beſides this, the maſter, when letting his lands, is always too ready to prefer the higheſt offer. On the other hand, the opulent tenant generally offers leaſt; while he, who has little to loſe, offers more, obtains the farm, and in a few years, a ſequeſtration enſues. It would be more profitable to a proprietor, to receive regularly L. 90 a-year, from an opulent and reſpectable tenant, eſteemed, and ſerviceable in the country, than to be promiſed from another L. 100, which he only receives in partial payments, and for which he is often obliged to uſe legal diligence.

Price of Labour, &c.—The wages of an able day-labourer throughout the year, is 1s per day; the wages of a woman for the harveſt, 8d; for men, between 10d and 1s per day; with breakfaſt and dinner for both. Some farmers hire their reapers during the whole harveſt, and pay to men, between 25s and 30s; to women, between 21s and 25s. The wages, however, depend in a great meaſure on the demand there is for reapers, and the number that is to be hired. The average

wages of men-ſervants, throughout the year, when they eat in the houſe, is L. 7; for women, not fully L. 3. Farmers have a ready ſale for every article to be diſpoſed of, and there is a conſtant demand; The prices are, in general, regulated by the markets of Alloa and Kincardine on the coaſt, and are commonly a little below the Haddington prices. In the pariſhes, there are common rock, and free-ſtone for building, moſs, lime, and coal. Peats may be got in almoſt every corner of both pariſhes, but are not uſed in great quantities; becauſe coal is at a reaſonable price, and near at hand. There are lime rocks in different places; but they are only wrought at preſent upon the lands of Gartwhinzian. There are two rocks there, which are wrought by the proprietors. The one is on the plain, the other on the banks of the Dovan. The ſtrata of the firſt are regular, and the ſtone ſolid. The lime when ſlacked, falls at firſt into large particles, and then gradually diſſolves into a ſmall powder of a cream colour. The ſtrata of the other, are confuſed and unequal; but when ſlacked, fall immediately into a fine white powder. That upon the banks of the Dovan, is eſteemed the whiteſt; but the other is equally ſtrong. The lime of both rocks, is at preſent ſold at 1s per boll, wheat meaſure. The ſale being wholly inland, is not extenſive; yet it is of great ſervice, not only to this pariſh, but to a conſiderable part of the adjoining country. The coal which is wrought at preſent, is at Blairingone, and belongs to the Duke of Atholl. It is found, however, in ſeveral other parts of Foſſaway, although not wrought. None of this coal is ſhipped; becauſe it is at a diſtance from the ſea, and beſides, the quantity thrown out, is not ſufficient to anſwer, throughout the year, the preſent demand. The price of the ſmall coal, is 6d, for 3 burdens; for the great coal, 10d, for 24 ſtones, Tron weight. The driving of lime and coal, is attended with the material diſad-

vantage

vantage of bad roads. The noblemen and gentlemen, are, however, exerting themſelves to remedy this evil; but it never will be effectually done, until turnpikes are eſtabliſhed. The local advantages which have been mentioned, ought to encourage incloſing and improvements; and ſhould induce proprietors and tenants, to exert themſelves, to carry them farther than they have yet been carried; eſpecially as it has been found, that land which before being improved, produced no more than between 5 and 6 bolls, from one boll of ſeed, have after being improved, been brought to yield upwards of 11. In the pariſhes, there is alſo iron-ſtone; but at preſent, it is not wrought.

Sheep, Horſes, and Black Cattle.—The number of ſheep does not exceed 3000; and they are all, what are here called the Tweed's Muir kind, and paſture only on the Ochil hills. The farmers have not begun to try the Engliſh ſheep; although they are more attentive to obtain a good breed, than they formerly were. They have a ready ſale for their wool, mutton, and lamb; and the mutton and lamb are eſteemed good. More ſheep might be kept, if they did not breed horſes and black cattle: Of theſe, ſome are bred for private uſe, others for ſale. As their number is conſtantly varying according to the ſales, it is impoſſible to aſcertain it exactly. Black-cattle are peculiarly attended to, of which great numbers are reared. None of them are of the greateſt ſize; but they are exceedingly hardy, and in general, bring good prices. The tenants pay their rents, not only by the ſale of grain; but by the profits ariſing from their ſheep, horſes, and black-cattle.

Milns.—In the two pariſhes, there are 9 milns. One lint miln, one waulk miln, one for manufacturing pot barley, and

6 for meal. The one for lint, is on the Dovan near the Crook. It is well employed, and of general utility. The corn-milns have all a thirlage, that is, ſo many proprietors bound by charter, and ſo many tenants by leaſes, to bring their grain to thoſe milns. There is alſo one barony thirled to a miln which is not in the pariſh; which, from its diſtance, it is at all times very inconvenient to uſe; and in the winter ſeaſon, almoſt impoſſible. Thirlage operates in every inſtance as a tax on induſtry, and is in a high degree unfavourable to the improvement of the country. It would perhaps be better for the proprietors of the milns, as well as for the general advantage of the country, to ſell the thirlage; which the heritors are not only willing to purchaſe, but for which they would give a good price; though in moſt caſes, the convenience of the ſituations would lead them to bring their grain to the ſame milns which they uſe at preſent.

Schools.—There are two ſchools in the pariſhes; one ſituated at the Crook of Dovan, and the other at Blairingone. The one at the Crook is the parochial ſchool; and the ſchool at Blairingone, is for the benefit of the children belonging to the work people of the colliery. The teacher at Blairingone has very ſmall encouragement; nothing but what ariſes from the wages paid him by the ſcholars, and a ſmall ſubſcription, which does not exceed L. 9 annually. If nothing more can be procured, it is probable, that in a ſhort time this ſchool will be given up, to the great detriment of the village. The ſalary of the parochial ſchoolmaſter, is L. 5 : 11 : 1$\frac{1}{9}$d ſterling, per annum, in money, with a piece of land, worth about the ſame ſum; and the emoluments ariſing from the offices of precentor and ſeſſion-clerk. Parochial ſchoolmaſters commonly receive a good education, are a body of men of great importance to this country, and certainly deſerve much better

encouragement from the landed proprietors, than they at preſent receive.

State of the Poor.—There are 24 perſons at preſent on the liſt of the pariſh poor; and the funds to ſupport them do not much exceed L. 30 per annum. This ſum ariſes from the intereſt of money, from parochial collections, and from ſome caſualities. There have never been any legal aſſeſſments in the pariſhes. The ſum for the ſupport of ſuch a number of poor, is certainly ſmall. There are none among them, however, who cannot work a little; and ſome of them only receive a ſmall occaſional allowance, when the prices of grain are high. There are 2 blind women on the liſt; and it is ſurpriſing how much they can ſpin. The ſevereſt ſeaſon which has happened here for a long time, was in 1782. At that time, every deſcription of men exerted themſelves to aſſiſt the poor. A meeting of the heritors, called for the purpoſe, thought it better to aſſeſs themſelves, than to encroach on the pariſh money lent at intereſt. Different quantities of meal were bought, and ſold to the people at the common prices in a year of plenty; and this mode of relief was continued till the ſcarcity was no longer felt.

The pariſh received ſome advantages beſides, from the aſſiſtance given by Government in that year, to ſome of the northern counties of Scotland. Perth-ſhire was included; and Foſſaway being in Perth-ſhire, received its proportion, which was extremely uſeful; and was faithfully applied.

Birds and Quadrupeds.—Birds, ſuch as are common in hilly countries, are found here. Moorfowl, partridges, plover, field-fare, dotterel, wild ducks, ravens, a ſmall ſpecies of the eagle, the kite; and in winter, wild geeſe. Of quadrupeds, there are foxes, badgers, otters, pole-cats, hares, and rabbits.

Thoſe

Thoſe who delight to amuſe themſelves with the hounds, or with the gun, will always find enough to gratify them here. There are no where greater numbers of partridges and hares. The carnivorous raven is particularly deſtructive to the young lambs. His method of attack is ſingular and ſavage; when he darts on the lamb, he firſt attacks the eyes, and when the animal cries, he ſeizes on the tongue. The deſtruction of the fox, and of this kind of raven, is an object of importance in this country.

Etymology of Names of Places.—Dovan, Dobh-an, "ſwelling or raging water," very properly applied to the river Dovan; becauſe it frequently ſwells to a very great height, conſidering its ſize; and runs with great rapidity and violence, until it arrives at the banks of Dollar. Gairney-Garana, "The underwoods." There are two ſmall rivers, which have both the name of Gairney, which riſe in the pariſhes; the one called the Eaſt, and the other the Weſt Gairney; becauſe the one runs eaſt, and the other weſt; and the banks of both in ſome places, are ſhaded with copſe wood. Solſgirth, has had different etymologies aſſigned to it; but among others, it has been ſuppoſed to be a Saxon name; which may ſignify a Girth, "or ſanctuary for the ſoles of one's feet." It is ſituated in a corner of the county, where Fife and Clackmannan-ſhires join with it; ſo that perſons flying from juſtice, from either of thoſe counties, would here find an aſylum. Near this place, where two rivulets meet, one may place the right foot on Perth-ſhire, the left on Fife-ſhire; ſtooping down, one may place both his hands in the county of Clackmannan; and while in that poſture, is partly in 3 counties. Blairingone, Blairingoithne; "the field of ſpears;" So called perhaps from making weapon-ſhawings there, and exerciſing people in the uſe of the ſpear, near the ſeat of the chief. For the chieftain

of the Murrays had a family ſeat at this place. The Scottiſh ſpear was an inſtrument of war much uſed in the lowlands; and was always found to be more than a match for the highland broad ſword. A proof of this, appears in that rencounter which took place between Huntly and Murray, at Corrichie, October 28th, 1562. Dr Robertſon, when mentioning this affair, ſaith, "The highland broad ſword is not "a weapon fit to encounter the Scottiſh ſpear. In every civil "commotion, the ſuperiority of the latter has been evident; "and has always decided the conteſt." By ſtatute, 1481, chap. 81, it is enacted, that ſpears ſhall not be made, or ſold, that are ſhorter than 5 ells and a half. Gartwhinzian, from Gart, an head, and Coinnean, a meeting or rendezvous. Every chieftain had a known place of rendezvous, to which the whole clan were obliged to repair, on a ſignal given. The Rocky Pinnacle, now vulgarly called Gibſon's Craig, is ſaid to be the real Gartwhinzian, where the whole clan of the Murrays aſſembled to attend their chief.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of the pariſhes, are the following. The Palace-Brae, Car-Leith, Hall-Yard, Monks-Grave, Gallow-Know, Trooper's-Dubb, and the Reformation-Clogg. The Murrays of Tullibardine, the progenitors of his Grace the Duke of Atholl, were the ancient chieftains of this pariſh; and proprietors of a great many other lands in the neighbourhood. At this day, the whole of both pariſhes ſtill holds of the Duke of Atholl; excepting the barony of Aldie, the barony of Tulliebole, the barony of Coldrain, the lands of Pitvar, and one farm belonging to Sir John Stewart of Grandtully. This laſt farm, although it lies in the centre of the barony of Carnbo, commonly called Carnbo-Stewart, which was disjoined, as before mentioned, from Perth-ſhire, and added to Kinroſs, ſtill belongs to the county of Perth.

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The reaſon of this was probably the common one; that the whole property of the family of Grandtully, might be kept in the county where the chief part of their eſtate was ſituated. The old Earls of Tullibardine had a family ſeat at Blairingone, on the north-weſt ſide of the ſouthern branch of Foſſaway. The ſite of this old building is ſtill viſible, and goes by the name of the Palace-Brae.

On the lands of Aldie, there is a riſing ground called Carleith. On the middle of this ground, are the ruins of an old building, perfectly circular, and nearly 24 feet diameter. Not long ago, the proprietor ordered this ground to be planted, and the ſtones were dug up to make the fence. When the work people were going on, they found two ſtone coffins near the centre. They were 4 feet long, and 3 broad, and contained to all appearance ſome human bones and teeth, and ſomething reſembling tallow, which went to aſhes, as ſoon as expoſed to the air. One of the coffins was deſtroyed, before the work men attended to it. The other was preſerved entire; and conſiſts of 5 ſtones pretty exactly joined together, and a very large one for the cover. Various conjectures are formed concerning theſe ruins. Some imagine, that it has been a place of worſhip; others, that it was a burying place; and that ſome perſons of diſtinction have been buried there. Although a ſatisfactory account of it cannot be given, it is accounted one of the antiquities of the pariſh. Aldie, which originally belonged to the Earl of Tullibardine, was given away as a portion, with the beautiful lady Aldia Murray, who was married to William Mercer, laird of Meikleour; who was brave and generous, and in the times of feudal ariſtocracy, ſtrongly ſupported the chieftain of the Murrays. The barony of Aldie received its name from the lady; and the Mercers upon that occaſion aſſumed the mullet of the Murrays, as a part of their arms; and

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there has been a very cloſe friendſhip between the two families ever ſince.

On the barony of Coldrain, or Collin's Drains, as it is originally ſtyled, there is a place called Hall-Yard, adjoining to the preſent tenant's houſe. Its form is an oblong ſquare, with the corners a little rounded. It contains 3 roods and 36 falls Scottiſh meaſure of land, conſiderably raiſed above the ſurface of the ground, on the north, eaſt, and ſouth. It is ſurrounded with a ditch, which at preſent is in moſt places pretty entire. It is from 15 to 20 feet wide, and although much grown up at the bottom, is about 5 feet deep below the level of the yard; and as there are two or 3 ſprings of water in the ditch, it is probable that it was originally filled with water. Within this area ſtood a building, which ſeems to have been of ſome note and ſtrength; and from the foundation of which, not many years ago, large ſtones were dug up. The country tradition is, that it was a hunting place, belonging to the Earls of Atholl. It belongs at preſent, to James Stedman of Whinfield near Kinroſs, and is conſidered as an antiquity, for the ſame reaſon as the Palace Brae.

The whole of the barony of Coldrain, originally belonged to the Earls of Atholl. This appears from the copy of a charter of appriſing, in poſſeſſion of the above mentioned gentleman. This charter is dated at Edinburgh the 26th December 1609. It appears that Umquhille, John Earl of Atholl, father to James Earl of Atholl, Lord Innermay and Balvany, owed a debt of 17,348 merks Scots, to Sir David Hermy of Lethindy; for which, the whole barony was adjudge. The lands were adjudged by a ſpecial jury, to be worth no more than 10,000 merks; and 500 merks to the Sheriff appointed on the buſineſs. As no perſon appeared for the family of Atholl, to ſatisfy Sir David in payment, the

the lands were expoſed to ſale, and the tenants, who either held their lands by leaſe, or wadſett, appeared, and were the purchaſers. The greateſt part of theſe lands, belong in property to the deſcendants of the original purchaſers at this very day; but the ſuperiority is veſted in the family of Kinroſs. The price of thoſe lands at the ſale in 1609, was about 7s 6d per acre, and as they would now rent at nearly that ſum, this ſhews the great increaſe of the value of land.

The lands of Pitvar in like manner, belonged originally to the family of Tullibardine; and were given away on another occaſion. A clan then at variance with the Murrays, had made a ſpreith, or open theft of their cattle, and burnt ſome houſes. The clan Murray, under their chieftain, was immediately raiſed. They purſued the aggreſſors, and found them in a church, feaſting on the cattle. They ſhut the gates, and ſetting fire to the church, not a perſon eſcaped. This piece of revenge, though cruel, was perfectly characteriſtic of the feudal times. "To forgive an injury, ſays Dr Robert-"ſon, was mean; to forbear revenge, infamous or cowardly. "Hence quarrels were tranſmitted from father to ſon, and "under the name of deadly feuds, ſubſiſted for many gene-"rations, with unmitigated rancour." This action which appeared cruel, and being committed in the church, which was reduced to aſhes, was highly offenſive to the clergy. They repreſented it in terms ſo highly aggravated, that the Murrays were excommunicated by the Pope. In thoſe days, ſays the above author, "A ſentence of excommunication was "no leſs formidable than a ſentence of outlawry. Beſides "excluding thoſe, upon whom it fell, from Chriſtian privi-"leges, it deprived them of all their rights as men, or as "citizens." Hence, as an atonement, and to make up peace with the church, the chieftain of the Murrays made over the lands of Pitvar to the abbots of Culroſs. Theſe lands

lands now hold of the crown, as having come in the place of that abbacy; and the firſt miniſter of Culroſs, at preſent, receives the duties payable out of theſe lands, as part of his ſtipend. The name of Pitvar, is ſtill enumerated among the other lands in the Duke of Atholl's charters. As it was the moſt ſouthern part of the lands belonging to the Murrays, and on the extremity of the county, it is highly probable, that it obtained the original name of Pitvar, by way of diſtinction; Pit, ſignifying a hollow, and Varar, an old name of Murray. For it is well known, that Vararis Æſtuarium was the Latin name for the Murray's Firth. Sometime after this, a diſpute aroſe between the Tullibardine family, and the Abbots of Culroſs, as to the limits of Pitvar; when a monk from Culroſs, ſtanding upon the common between the lands of Gartwhinzian and Pitvar, made oath that he was then ſtanding on the property lands of Culroſs. One of the Tullibardine party, enraged at his uttering ſuch a falſehood, immediately run him through the body. Upon examining his boots, they were found to contain earth which he had brought with him from Culroſs. He was buried on the ſpot, and the place ſtill retains the name of the Monk's Grave, and is ranked among the antiquities of the pariſhes.

When the rights of the Scottiſh proprietors came to aſſume a regular form, hiſtorians inform us, that, "The lands of "ſome were erected into baronies, thoſe of others into rega-"lities. The juriſdiction of the former was extenſive, that "of the latter, as the name implies, royal, and almoſt un-"bounded. All cauſes, whether civil or criminal, were "tried by judges, whom the Lord of the Regality appoint-"ed." Such power was never granted, but to families of diſtinction. The proprietor of Tulliebole had this juriſdiction. During the laſt century, a quarrel took place between two of his vaſſals, at a market in the Crook of Dovan. In

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the heat of paſſion, the one drew his knife, and ſtabbed the other to the heart. When his anger was abated, and he had recollected what he had done, he immediately fled. A party however, was immediately ſent after him, who overtaking him before he had reached a mile from the place, brought him back. He was kept in cloſe confinement all that night. Next day he was tried for the murder; a jury was ſummoned; the Lord of the Regality preſided. Witneſſes were examined; the fact was clearly proven. The priſoner being found guilty, was condemned to be hanged the ſame evening. The place appointed for the execution, was a ſmall riſing ground, at the eaſt end of the village of the Crook of Dovan. As this was the only perſon who ever ſuffered in the pariſh, his death has been handed by tradition, from one generation to another; and the ſmall piece of ground where the gallows was erected, ſtill goes by the name of the Gallow-know, and ſerves not only to keep up the remembrance of this murder, trial, and execution, but of the jurisdiction formerly exerciſed by the Scottiſh Barons. Though no injuſtice appears to have been done in this caſe, it is one of the ſubjects for which this country ought to be grateful to providence, that the execution of the criminal law is now happily placed in better hands.

In ancient times, the Kings of Scotland had frequent occaſion to paſs from their palace at Stirling, to their palace at Falkland; and ſometimes took their route by the way of Tulliebole. One of the King Jameſes, tradition does not ſay which of them, being to paſs that way, was aſked by the family of Tulliebole to dine. The invitation was accepted. His Majeſty's retinue being numerous, and the caſtle of Tulliebole not being ſufficiently commodious for the whole company, a tent was erected on a piece of plain ground, near a ſmall rivulet. The entertainment was ſo very agreeable to

the King, that he conferred the honour of Knighthood on his hoſt that very day. Amongſt the King's attendants, was a trooper much celebrated for his ability in drinking intoxicating liquors. Among the laird of Tulliebole's vaſſals, there was one named Keltie, (a name ſtill common in the barony,) equally renowned for the ſame kind of dangerous pre-eminence. The trooper and he had heard of each other; and each was deſirous to try the ſtrength of the other. They had no opportunity while the King was there; but they agreed to meet early on a Monday morning, ſoon after, on the ſame ſpot where the King had dined. It is not ſaid what kind of liquor they made uſe of; but they drank it from what are here called quaffs, a ſmall wooden veſſel, which holds about half an Engliſh pint. They continued to drink, till the Wedneſday evening, when the trooper fell from his ſeat, ſeemingly aſleep. Keltie, took another quaff, after the fall of his friend, to ſhow that he was the conqueror; and this gave riſe to a proverb, well known over all this country, *Keltie's Mends;* and nothing is more common, at this very day, when one refuſes to take his glaſs, than to be threatened with, *Keltie's Mends.* Keltie dropped from his ſeat afterwards, and fell aſleep. But when he awakened, he found his companion dead. He was buried in the ſame place, and as it is near a ſmall pool of water, it ſtill retains the name of "the Trooper's Dubb." The anecdote ſhould ſerve as a warning againſt the criminal and prepoſterous folly which occaſioned it. Some of the people are ſtill credulous enough to imagine that the trooper is ſtill ſeen ſometimes ſitting on the ſpot, and in the night, would rather go a mile out of their way than paſs by the Trooper's Dubb. The road leading by this place, ſtill retains the name of the *Court Gate,* or *Court Way.*

Among the antiquities of the pariſhes, may alſo be enumerated an anvil ſtock, that was the property of a black ſmith

ſmith in the Crook of Dovan before the Reformation. At that time, a Roman Catholic prieſt officiated in the pariſh; who was a great declaimer againſt the marriage of the clergy. The blackſmith, had notwithſtanding reaſon to ſuſpect that he was too familiar with his wife; and pretending to go on a journey, he returned unexpectedly, and found the prieſt and his wife together. This ſon of Vulcan, however, did not, like his predeceſſor in the caſe of Mars and Venus, prepare a net to link them together; but he hammered out a moſt ſubſtantial ſtaple, and indignantly dragging the prieſt to the anvil ſtock, he nailed him to it by means of the ſtaple, and by that part of his body which had done the miſchief. He then laid down a knife, and ſetting fire to the ſmith's ſhop, gave the prieſt his choice, either "to cut or to "burn." The prieſt heſitated, till the flames approached him; but was at laſt obliged to have recourſe to the knife. He never afterwards made his appearance in the pariſh; and no other Roman Catholic prieſt was permitted to ſucceed him; the anvil ſtock, has therefore the name of "the Refor-"mation Clogg;" and the ſtory is known by the title of "cut "or burn." The original clogg itſelf has been in the poſſeſſion of the laſt 5 miniſters of the pariſh; and is now in the poſſeſſion of the writer of this account. This affair is ſaid to have happened during the time that Mary Queen of Scots was confined a priſoner in the caſtle of Lochleven, under the care of William Douglas, to whom it belonged.

Natural Curioſities.—In working the lime rock, the workmen ſometimes meet with pieces of it reſembling the ſhells of ſea-fiſh. Lately, there was a piece found, exactly ſimilar to a common octavo bible bound in white vellum. Both from the appearance of leaves, uncut, and from its cover, every perſon who has ſeen it, takes it for a book.

The moſt ſtriking curioſities, however, are the Devil's Miln, the Rumbling Bridge, and the Caldron Linn on the river Dovan.

1. The Devil's Miln. The Devil's miln lies higheſt up the river, and about an Engliſh mile below the preſent church of Foſſaway. It is formed by the water falling over a ſmall caſcade, into a cavity made in the rock below. Here is heard all that noiſe, peculiar to a great body of water falli ıg upon a miln-wheel, and driving it round with great velocity and force. In the cavity below, the water is continually toſſed round with great violence, and conſtantly beating on the ſides of the rock. From this it happens that a noiſe ſimilar to the ſound made by a going miln, is diſtinctly heard, when the water has force enough, by its quantity, to beat the rock violently; and when it is not ſo high, as to cover the cavity altogether. As this miln, according to the country phraſe, goes Sunday and Saturday, it is from this circumſtance, called the Devil's miln. Near this, and on the Muckart ſide of the river, is ſomething reſembling a coal level, running into the rock; which is called the Pigeons cave. This, as the acceſs to it is difficult, has not been examined with ſo much accuracy, as to aſcertain whether it has been formed by nature, or by art.

2. The Rumbling Bridge. About 350 yards below the Devil's miln, ſtands the Rumbling bridge. It is ſo called, from the rumbling noiſe which the water makes; puſhing along from caſcade to caſcade, on the channel below. The ſpan of the arch of this bridge, is 22 feet; its breadth 11, and its height 86. Its height, however, from the ſurface of the water, varies according to the ſwelling of the river, when the meaſurement is taken. When one ſees the bridge itſelf, the high rocks all in view, the natural wood with which in ſome places they are covered, the water running along from one fall to another below, in

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ſome places by the jutting out of the rocks, concealed from the eye, and in others, appearing again; when he ſees it here calm and ſmooth, there all covered with foam, and in other places broken, boiling, and tumultuous, and remarks the multitude of fowls which are conſtantly flying about, he will readily acknowledge, that the whole forms a very diverſified, beautiful, and romantic ſcene; which well deſerves to be deſcribed, and to attract the attention of travellers.

3. Caldron Linn. A mile farther down the river, is found the Caldron Linn. There are here two falls of water. The uppermoſt fall is 34 feet in height; but is not perpendicular. The other is 44 feet in height, and is almoſt completely perpendicular. The two falls are diſtant from each other, 28 yards. The diſtance between the rocks, on each ſide of the river, is not every where the ſame; but increaſes from 12 to 22 feet, and is leaſt at the higheſt fall. Here too are intervening rocks; and there is one like a pillar in the midſt of the water, horizontal on the top, by which many perſons have paſſed from the one ſide to the other. In the ſpace between the two falls, are 3 round cavities which the water has formed in the rock, which have the appearance of large caldrons, or boiling veſſels, from which the name is derived. In the firſt, there is the perpetual agitation of boiling water, the ſecond is always covered with foam, and the third is conſtantly calm and placid. The caldrons are of different dimenſions; and the third which is the largeſt, may be perhaps 22 feet in diameter. When the river is low, they communicate with each other, not by the water running over their mouths; but by apertures made, by the force of the waters in the courſe of time through the rocks which ſeparate them, at perhaps the middle depth of the caldron. In conſequence of this, the third caldron, which communicates with the great fall, has formed an opening for itſelf,

out

out of which the whole water, when the river is not ſwelled, ruſhes out to the great fall, with great violence, and with a very ſtriking effect. As this caldron, which indeed has not been meaſured, ſtill appears to be very deep, the aperture cannot reach to the bottom. The aperture reſembles a door, or a large window, having a piece of the rock like a lintel ſtill remaining on the top. When the whole water makes its way through this opening, the height of the fall is leſſened perhaps 7 or 8 feet. To a perſon looking up from the ſide of the pool below, as no part of the river above is to be ſeen, it has the appearance of a great body of water, from ſome prodigious ſpring, guſhing out of the rock. When the river is large, the water runs over the lintel, as it formerly did at all times, and then the height of the fall is as great as it ever was. Some months ago, a part of the rock on the ſouth ſide of the river, adjoining the fall, was broken off, and fell into the pool below. Yet this has made little alteration on the fall; but the force of the water, will no doubt, in proceſs of time, make a great change on it. The caldrons may be equally well ſeen on both ſides of the river; but the great fall is ſeen to moſt advantage, from the ſouth. There is an acceſs to the ſide of the pool below, where the view of the fall is moſt complete. Between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, is the moſt proper time to view it. The ſun then ſhines directly in front of the fall; and as there is a gentle vapour continually ariſing from the pool, into which the water falls, it exhibits to the eye, all the different colours of the rainbow which, by the perpetual agitation of the wind, appear and diſappear, ſo as to form the moſt ſtriking and pictureſque ſcene.

Rivers.—There are various ſtreams of water running through both pariſhes; but the only river connected with either,

either, is the Dovan. It riſes in the pariſh of Alva, and directing its courſe eaſtward, ſeparates the pariſh of Tillicoultry from Blackford; runs through the middle of Glendovan; is the line of march betweeen Muckart and the northern branch of Foſſaway; touches at the village of the Crook of Dovan, (ſo called, becauſe there it turns,) and taking its courſe in a ſouth-weſt direction, again ſeparates Muckart from the ſouthern branch of Foſſaway; paſſes by Dollar, Tillicoultry, and Alva; and empties itſelf into the river Forth, nearly oppoſite to its ſource, and only about 6 Engliſh miles diſtant from it. Taking from its ſource to the Crook of Dovan, a ſtraight line, and another ſtraight line to where it falls into the Forth, they form an angle of about 224 degrees. It runs a courſe, including its windings, of about 40 miles.

The Dovan affords excellent trout, and the trouts are all of what are called the burn, or moſs kind. No ſalmon, or ſalmon trout, can paſs the Caldron-linn. There are, however, ſome Lochleven trout caught in the Dovan, which are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the burn trout, being of a quite different kind. This to a ſtranger would appear inexplicable, yet it is eaſy to account for it. A little above the Crook, there is a ſmall ſtream of water which falls into the Dovan. Part of this ſtream is carried off to ſupply the village with water. What is taken off runs towards Kinroſs; and when it is flooded, the trouts, in the ſpawning ſeaſon come up, get into the larger ſtream, and from thence into the Dovan, from whence it is ſuppoſed few return. When the river is greatly flooded, the trouts are found to fly from the current of the ſtream, to the calm and ſtill water at the ſides. Then it is that many people, with ſmall hand nets, drag the calm pools, and catch them in prodigious numbers. This greatly hurts the fiſhing with the rod.

Bridges.—

Bridges.—The bridges on the Dovan, connected with Foſſaway, are 5. The Vicars bridge, leading from the north, to the coal at Blairingone, ſaid to be built by a Vicar, who once lived at Dollar, but in what year, is uncertain. It was widened 6 feet, about 30 years ago. Higher up the river ſtands the Rumbling bridge, built about the year 1723. The next is the bridge at the preſent church of Foſſaway, on the high road from Stirling to Kinroſs. It was built in the year 1767. At a conſiderable diſtance farther up the river, ſtand other two bridges, diſtant from each other, about an Engliſh mile. The firſt, is called Old Foſſaway bridge, becauſe it is built near where Old Foſſaway church ſtood. The other is called St Serfs bridge, and it forms a communication between the pariſh of Dunning, and the coal at Blairingone. Both theſe bridges were built as they preſently ſtand, within the laſt 60 years.

A Flood on the Dovan.—The greateſt flood which has been obſerved on the Dovan for many years, was in the month of Sept. 1785. The rain began about 4 o'clock in the morning. About 9, the river was increaſing with great rapidity. At 10, it had covered the marks taken notice of in a large flood. This led to a cloſer obſervation. The river ſwelled to at leaſt 18 inches perpendicular, above the height to which it had been known to riſe for many years. Though the rain, where theſe obſervations were made, continued as violent as ever, the river began to decreaſe, nearly in the ſame proportion, in which it had been increaſing a little before. At firſt, this appeared quite inexplicable; but the cauſe was ſoon known. The rain had abated on the hills, from whence the ſtreams deſcend, which ſupply the river; and all the water that fell on the low ground, had no influence to keep up the river at its former height. At the Rumbling bridge, the river was run-

ning with prodigious rapidity and force, and had covered all the caſcades, which are obſervable when at its ordinary ſize. It carried along with it great quantities of grain from the fields, many trees, and ſeveral ſheep. The river, from a little above the Devil's miln to the Rumbling bridge, is hemmed in by rocks on each ſide, not diſtant, where fartheſt from each other, more than 16 feet; and in ſome places ſo near, that it may be ſtepped over. The Caldron Linn appeared in its higheſt dignity. As the water filled almoſt the whole ſpace between the two falls, up to the ſummit of the rocks, the uppermoſt fall was ſcarcely diſcernible; but the other appeared in all its majeſty. The immenſe body of water, the height which the fall then had, and the agitation which it produced in the pool below, formed a moſt ſtriking and even an awful ſcene; and ſeemed to make the rock quake at the diſtance of 30 yards. When looking up from the ſide of the pool below, to the immenſe body of water ruſhing over the fall, it is impoſſible to deſcribe its dignity, and the amazing whirling and boiling of the pool. It was obſerved about 2 o'clock; the ſun ſhone bright, and there was a freſh gale of wind. The gentle vapour which appears at all times, had at this time increaſed like a thin cloud; and aſcended fully 200 feet above the tops of the rocks. The rainbow was ſeen in full perfection; and the cloud being continually toſſed by the wind, reſembled the Aurora Borealis.

The Dovan, in compariſon with other rivers, is exceedingly ſmall; but at this time, it was a conſiderable river indeed. By an obſervation made near the preſent manſe of Foſſaway, where it is confined by rocks almoſt perpendicular, to a channel of 50 feet wide, and running on a declivity of 6 feet in 150, it was found to exceed its uſual ſize about 12 feet in perpendicular height.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF TRINITY GASK.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By a Friend to Statiſtical Enquiries.

Situation, &c.

TRINITY GASK, or Tarnty, as it is vulgarly pronounced, occupies a pleaſant ſituation in Strathearn, an extenſive and beautiful diſtrict of Perth-ſhire. It ſtretches from eaſt to weſt, along both ſides of the river Earn, for ſeveral miles. The bank on the north riſes with a gentle ſlope; (as the word *Gaſk*, in the original Gaelic, is ſaid to denote, *Stat. Hiſt. of Scotland*, Vol. i. p. 479), and commands a wide and diverſified proſpect. The ground, to the ſouth of this bank, is chiefly level, and ſeems to have been the alluvion of the river; which, like the Forth below Stirling, takes through this plain a very winding courſe, and frequently makes conſiderable encroachments on its banks.

Heritors.—The principal heritors of the pariſh, are His Grace the Duke of Atholl; the Earl of Kinnoul; Sir Thomas Moncrieff, Bart. General Drummond of Machany; General Graham

Graham of Balgowan; Thomas Hepburn, Esq. Only two of the heritors reside in the parish.

Population.—This parish, according to the report made to Dr Webster in 1755, contained 913 inhabitants. The present number is 795. The decrease from 1755 to 1795, is 118.

Church. Stipend.—This parish is situated in the county of Perth, the presbytery of Auchterarder, and synod of Perth and Stirling. It consists of the united parishes of Kinkel and Wester Gask; and, as report says, contained a third place of worship, called Chapel-hill. The union of the three, into one parish, is said to have given rise to the present name of Trinity Gask. The kirk at Chapel-hill has long since fallen into ruins. From the rubbish large stones, some with crosses, &c. cut upon them, have been occasionally dug up. The adjoining burying ground is converted into a cottage-garden, in which human bones are sometimes found. Divine worship has till of late been performed in the church of Kinkel; where in summer, the minister officiated every fourth sabbath. The building having fallen into disrepair, is now abandoned as a place of worship; which was the more readily submitted to, as the minister was not supposed to be under any obligation to continue the former practice. The church and manse at Trinity Gask were rebuilt about 20 years ago, and are in good repair. Mr James Brough, the present incumbent, was ordained minister here in 1794. The stipend consists of 36 bolls of oat-meal, 24 bolls of bear, and L. 43 ster. in money. A process of augmentation is at present depending; and the funds for obtaining it are very sufficient. The glebe, consisting of the old glebe of Wester Gask, united to a piece of land, exchanged two years ago for the glebe at Kinkel,

contains 16 acres of good land. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron. One of the firſt erected Seceding Meeting Houſes, belonging to the Antiburgher Synod in Scotland, is at Kinkel; and is regularly attended by a numerous congregation, collected from this pariſh and the neighbourhood.

School. Poor.—The parochial ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 100 Scots, (L. 8:6:8 ſter.) with a free houſe and garden. The poor on the pariſh liſt are 4; beſides a few indigent families, who, on particular occaſions, receive a little aſſiſtance. The funds for their ſupport are chiefly made up of collections at the church, and the intereſt of L. 100 ſterling, ſaved by the ſeſſion in times of plenty. The collections at an average amount to about 4s weekly. None of the poor are permitted to beg.

Agriculture and Manufactures.—Although almoſt the whole pariſh is arable, upwards of 1000 acres of land, which might be eaſily improved, are allowed to remain in a ſtate of nature. This muiriſh land, which lies away from the river in the higher part of the pariſh, yields but a ſcanty crop of coarſe graſs to the cows that are paſtured upon it, for a rent of from 1s to 5s per Scotch acre. It ſeems to accord with the preſent ſtate of human nature, that men, whether viewed as individuals, or connected in ſociety, ſhould graſp with avidity at foreign treaſures; while they leave unimproved the certain advantages which are within their own power. Arable farms, generally conſiſt of a plough-gate of land, containing about 50 or 60 acres. The uſe of lime and marle has greatly improved the ſyſtem of agriculture. Graſſes are now ſown with ſucceſs; and turnips have lately been cultivated with profit. Clover and potatoes in general do well; and are highly advantageous to the farmer. A conſiderable

part of the ſoil, being a mixture of clay and loam, is well calculated for producing wheat, which, in ſmall quantities, is now ſown, and it is hoped will ſoon be in more general uſe. Lint in ſome places grows very well; and premiums for cultivating it have been obtained in the pariſh. Mr Thomas Stalker has this year (1795), preſerved lint-ſeed, from lint produced upon an acre and a half on the banks of the Earn; which, from its ſituation, ſeems to have been depoſited by the river. The ſoil is rather heavy, and of a blackiſh colour. Mr Stalker thinks that the ſeed will equal in quality any that is imported into Scotland. The pariſh contains, beſides about 40 acres of natural wood, chiefly oak, a good many thriving plantations, which beautify and ſhelter the country. As many horſes are reared in the pariſh as preclude the neceſſity of any foreign ſupply. The breed of late is greatly improved. The cows are rather ſmall, and are preferred to the larger kinds, as being more adapted to the ſoil, as well as the ſize of the farms. But were the lands incloſed, and more attention paid to the dairy, a larger breed of milk-cows than the preſent would probably be found to be more profitable. From 6 to 12 milk cows are kept on each farm of a plough-gate of land. The milk is made into butter, and ſkimmed-milk cheeſe, chiefly for the market in Perth. Sheep are almoſt wholly baniſhed from the pariſh; and a few hogs are reared for home conſumption. The pariſh is ſupplied with four meal and two lint-milns. The aſtrictions by thirlage, to ſome of theſe mills, were till of late very oppreſſive; but in moſt places a remedy is found, by the proprietors of land, who relieve their tenants from the burden; or by the tenants themſelves who purchaſe the right to the multures, and thereby have the liberty of grinding their corns where they pleaſe. The grain produced in the pariſh is greatly more than ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants.

Manufactures

Manufactures have ſcarcely, if at all, found their way into this pariſh; it contains, however, as many tradeſmen as are neceſſary, in ordinary caſes, for the cuſtomary work of the inhabitants.

Fiſhings.—The river Earn, the only water of conſequence in this neighbourhood, abounds with excellent ſalmon and trout. The ſalmon are caught in conſiderable abundance, chiefly in two cruives, which are placed in the river, and for the uſe of which a yearly rent is paid.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads in general are extremely bad; and, in ſome places, almoſt impaſſible in wet weather. The communication over the Earn was formerly by means of a ferry, which, on many occaſions, was very dangerous; but an excellent ſtone-bridge was lately built near Kinkel. This, and the other bridges in the diſtrict, being built by a voluntary ſubſcription, are not burthened with any pontage.

Antiquities.—The only piece of antiquity worth notice, is a part of the Roman road, or cauſeway, that runs from Stormont to the celebrated camp at Ardoch. This road, for more than a mile, in a ſtraight line, occupies the higheſt ground in the pariſh. It is very complete, and, with little or no repair, ſerves for a public road. The ſtones of which it is made are pretty large; and are laid in good order. It is commonly dry, even in the wetteſt ſeaſon of the year. The road, however, of which it makes a part, is but little frequented.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Two ſmall public houſes, one at Trinity Gaſk, and the other at Kinkel, are found to be neceſſary for retailing ale and whiſky, for the accommodation of the

the neighbourhood. They are productive of no bad conſequences.

The moſt noted well in the pariſh is at Trinity Gask. It is remarkable for the purity and lightneſs of its water; the ſpring is copious and perennial. Superſtition, aided by the intereſted artifices of popiſh prieſts, raiſed, in times of ignorance and bigotry, this well to no ſmall degree of celebrity. It was affirmed, that every perſon who was baptized with the water of this well, would never be ſeized with the plague. In thoſe times, few ventured to diſbelieve what was aſſerted by the Monkiſh Clergy; and fewer were poſſeſſed of fortitude to oppoſe the ſyſtem of influence, which the Eſtabliſhed Church had obtained? But the extraordinary virtue of Trinity Gask well has periſhed with the downfal of ſuperſtition, and the introduction of a free and rational enquiry into nature and religion.

One great diſadvantage, under which the inhabitants of this pariſh labour, is their diſtance from fuel. The works from which coal is generally procured, are diſtant about 20 miles, and the roads far from being good. Half the ſummer is ſpent in bringing home as much coal as is neceſſary for the winter's ſupply. Peats are procured from the moſs of the higher grounds, but not without great labour and waſte of time. And it is obvious, that the time and labour which the neceſſary proviſion of fuel requires, muſt be equally unfavourable to the induſtry of the mechanic and of the farmer. Theſe diſadvantages, however, are common to many places in the neighbourhood.

The low grounds through which the Earn takes its ſerpentine courſe, are expoſed to frequent inundations from the river. Owing to this circumſtance, the land cannot with ſafety be plowed till late in ſpring; and even then, a ſudden fall of rain upon

upon the neighbouring heights ſwells the river, and carries awa the ſoil the whole depth of the furrow, and that frequentl after the ſeed is ſown. The land being thus deprived of its fe tilizing ſoil, and not infrequently covered with ſand and grave remains a long time in a ſtate of barrenneſs. The harve floods are ſometimes alarming and ruinous to the farme His fields of corn are often entirely deſtroyed, an the grain carried down by the ſtream. His mind kept in conſtant alarm, during the rainy ſeaſon; and the ſab bath is often ſpent in removing the crop to a place ſecure fro the reach of the water. Upon lands thus ſituated, few im provements in agriculture can be carried on. Incloſure whether by ſtone dykes, hedges, or ditches, are rendered uſe leſs by the floods from the river; the dykes are levelled wit the ground; the hedges torn up by the roots; and the ditche filled up with ſand and gravel. Proper drains in ſuch ſitua tions are impracticable; and the manure laid upon the land is often rendered uſeleſs, or wholly ſwept away. The common courſe of cropping on the extenſive tract of land, which i thus expoſed, is 3 years in white crops ſucceſſively; and 3 years, often 4, in lee. Much land is alſo wholly loſt, by the frequency with which the river changes its courſe. No fewer than 12 acres in one farm, have within a few years been carried away from the banks, by the force of the water. The only remedy for theſe evils, is to ſtraighten the courſe of the water, and to ſecure it by proper embankments.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF PERTH.

(COUNTY OF PERTH,—PRESBYTERY OF PERTH,—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,—COMMISSARIOT OF ST. ANDREWS.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES SCOTT.

§ 1. *Name of the Town.*

THE town of Perth gives its name, not only to the parish, but also to the extensive county in which it is situated. The late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, (Annals of Scotland, Vol. ii. p. 341.) says, "The derivation of the "word Perth, used in vol. i. p. 138, ought to be omitted. "I have been favoured with different interpretations of the "word. Not knowing which to chuse, I judge it best to "omit them all."

In this Statistical Account, however, some explanation of the name may be expected.

The word Perth, is pronounced by the Highlanders, Peirt or Peart. According to this pronunciation, the word is said by some persons to mean a finished labour, or complete piece of work; and to refer to the building of the town, or to the fortifications with which it was originally surrounded.

But Fordun, (vol. ii. p. 99.) when ſpeaking of a remarkable ſiege which the town ſuſtained from the Norwegians, in the time of the Picts, during which the Scots joined with the Picts in repelling the enemy, ſays, "I have found, in "ſome old writs, that the town of St John, now called "Perth, was anciently called Bertha."

The contracted pronunciations of Bertha, are Berth and Bert; and, as the letters B and P were uſed indiſcriminately in the Gaelic language, the Highlanders might eaſily change the name into Perth or Pert.

Bertha, in the German language, ſignifies celebrity, ſplendor, or what is deſervedly illuſtrious, the ſame as Eudoxia in the Greek. Thoſe perſons who were called Eudocia by the Greeks, were by the Germans called Bertha. If the Picts therefore, in whoſe territory the town was, were originally Goths or Germans, there would then be no neceſſity of ſeeking for a Celtic derivation of the word Perth.

§ 2. *Origin and Roman Name of the Town.*

There were towns in Britain prior to the time of the Roman invaſion. But it may be preſumed, from the rude ſtate of the arts, and the wandering manner of life of the inhabitants, that they ſcarcely deſerved to be called by that name.

That particular tribe of the Picts which poſſeſſed, with ſome other ſmall territories, the county of Fife, and that portion of the county of Perth which lies on the ſouth of the Tay, were called the Horeſtii.

Whether, before the Romans invaded the country, there were any conſtant or occaſional aſſemblage of the people, in dwellings erected for them, where Perth now ſtands, cannot perhaps at this diſtance of time be determined with any certainty.

tainty. We may therefore paſs on to the generally received opinion which is, that the town was regularly built; and fortified at the command of Agricola, while he was proſecuting his conqueſts on the north ſide of the Forth.

Richard of Cirenceſter, the diſcovery of whoſe book has thrown great light on the antiquities of Scotland, when ſpeaking of the Horeſtii, ſays, "Their towns were Alauna, "Lindum, and Victoria; the laſt of which was more illuſ- "trious than the reſt, not only in name, but alſo in reality. "It was built by Agricola, at the river Tay, 20 miles from "the exit of that river into the ſea." (Rich. Itinerary, lib. i. c. 6.)

This is an exact deſcription of the ſituation of the town of Perth. The diſtance to Dundee, which is commonly conſidered as marking the exit of the river, is 20 Engliſh miles. It is probable, however, that Richard meant Scots or computed miles, as he had his report from ſome Monks of his order, who had been in Scotland in the 13th century, and had there examined the remains of Roman antiquities. He might therefore ſpeak, according to the manner of the country, of the diſtance of Perth from what may be called the real exit of the river. He evidently means Perth, and Mr Whitaker, in his hiſtory of Manchеſter, applies the name accordingly. Perth, or Victoria, is reckoned to have been one of the Latin towns, on which ample privileges were always conferred.

Mr Henry Adamſon, a young man of the clerical profeſſion, Son of James Adamſon, Provoſt of Perth, and brother of Dr John Adamſon, Principal of the College of Edinburgh, wrote his metrical hiſtory of Perth about the year 1620, which was publiſhed, after his death, in the year 1638.

The name which Mr Adamſon gave to his book, was, "the Muſes Threnodie." But, according to the faſhion of

the times, when the book was to be publiſhed, it received the fantaſtical name of "Gall's Gabions."

It is written in a very handſome and ſpirited manner; and William Drummond of Hawthorndean, the celebrated Scottiſh poet of thoſe times, wrote a complimentary letter to Mr Adamſon, deſiring him to publiſh his work, and congratulating the town of Perth on having given birth to a citizen, "ſo eminent in love to her, and ſo dear to the Muſes."

Mr Drummond's letter was dated July 12th, 1637. But it did not arrive, if it arrived at all, at Perth, till after Mr Adamſon's death, who died in May 1637.

I have thought it neceſſary to mention theſe few particulars concerning Mr Henry Adamſon, as introductory to the uſe to be made of his hiſtory; and more eſpecially, as, I find the brevity required in this Statiſtical Account, will not permit me to take any farther notice of him, or of any other remarkable perſons, natives of the town of Perth, unleſs ſome more important articles were to be neglected.

The purport of what he ſays of the origin of Perth, with ſome additional circumſtances, from Tacitus and Fordun, is as follows.

"Cnæus Julius Agricola, in the third year after Veſpaſian, "who had ſent him to be governor in Britain, viz. about the "year of the Chriſtian Æra 79, led a numerous army, round "by the paſs of Stirling, into the country on the north ſide of "the Forth. New nations or tribes were diſcovered, which "the Romans waſted all the way to the Tay. The people "fled before them; ſo that Agricola, in his progreſs, had "leiſure to erect many forts or caſtles.

"He was nearly 5 years eſtabliſhing the Roman power on "the north of the Forth, till he was recalled by Domitian. "At firſt, the natives, in the winter, demoliſhed the ſummer "camps

"camps or fortreſſes. But theſe, as well as the winter reſi-
"dences, were at laſt rendered impregnable.

"When Agricola and his army firſt ſaw the river Tay, and
"the adjacent plain on which Perth is now ſituated, they cried
"out with one conſent, *Ecce Tiber! Ecce Campus Martius!*
"Behold the Tiber! Behold the field of Mars! comparing
"what they ſaw, to their own river, and to the extenſive
"plain in the neighbourhood of Rome. The Italians, many
"ages after, were in uſe to give to the Tay, the name of
"New Tiber; and Fordun gave the name of Tyber-more,
"to an extenſive moor which lies weſt from the town of
"Perth.

"As the field at Rome was by the early Romans conſecrat-
"ed to Mars, ſo their deſcendants found, in the field adjoin-
"ing the Tay, an old temple, which the Britiſh or Welſh
"writers ſay, was built many ages before, by one of the
"Britiſh kings, and dedicated to Mars. The Romans per-
"formed worſhip there to that heathen deity, in hopes of
"their expedition's being favoured in the new country into
"which they were come.

"Agricola pitched his camp in the middle of that field,
"on the ſpot where Perth ſtands. He propoſed to make it a
"winter camp; and afterwards built what he intended ſhould
"be a colonial town. He fortified it with walls, and with a
"ſtrong caſtle, and ſupplied the ditches with water by an
"aqueduct from the Almond.

"Alſo, with much labour to his ſoldiers, and probably to
"the poor natives, a large wooden bridge was conſtructed
"over the river at Perth."

The particulars which Mr Adamſon relates were not of his own invention. They were agreeable to the current tradition. And he, or the ſpeaker whom he introduces, ſays, they were written in an old manuſcript; but were ſlipt, as many other things

things were, out of the records which were more recent. (Muſes Threnodie, Muſe iii. v. 220—223, 242—317.)

It is not my purpoſe to affirm that the building of Perth happened exactly in the manner now related. But the particulars are not improbable. The ſame or other circumſtances more remarkable, might have occurred.

One of the remaining parts of the north wall of the town, having been taken down a few years ago, a pretty large braſs coin, of "Cæſar Auguſtus Pontifex Maximus," was found in it, which has ever ſince been in the poſſeſſion of Mr James Ramſay, preſent Provoſt of Perth.

The ſtory of an old Britiſh temple at Perth, is given by Holinſhed. He took it, I preſume, from Galfridus Monomutenſis, who was biſhop of St Aſaph in 1151; and whoſe hiſtory is ſaid to have been a tranſlation of what had been written in the Armorican, or Welſh language, by Tiſſilio, a biſhop in Wales, and ſon of the Prince of Powis-land. The ſtory, more particularly, is, that long before the time of our Saviour, the ſon of Regam, ſecond daughter of king Lear, governed the whole iſland of Britain. He built 3 temples, one to Mars at Perth in Scotland; another to Mercury at Bangor; and a third to Apollo in Cornwal.

An old houſe of a mean ſtructure, ſtood on what was reckoned the ſite of the old temple at Perth. It bore, for ages, the name of "the Kirk, or houſe in the green," and belonged to the family of Mercer of Aldie. The late Colonel Mercer, laird of Aldie, took it down about 8 years ago, and built in its ſtead a modern houſe. He cauſed a marble ſtone to be placed in the front of the new houſe, bearing the family arms, with this inſcription added, "Here ſtood the houſe of the "green."

But a remaining part of the building had been unknown, and was wholly ſubterraneous. When the maſons had dug about

about 3 feet below the level of the ſtreet, they came to 2 flat arches, which they broke through. Under each of theſe arches, was an apartment of 26 feet in length, and 14 in breadth. The thickneſs of the walls, which were of large ſtones, ſtrongly cemented, was 3 feet and a half. Rubbiſh had filled up the apartments to nearly about 3 feet below the roof. There had been in one of them, a door to the north; and in the other, a door to the ſouth. I have not heard exactly what the depth of the walls was, only in general, that it was not very great.

About two miles up the river, in the pariſh of Redgorton, which is ſeparated from the pariſh of Perth, not only by that part of the water of Almond, which runs ſtraight to the Tay, but alſo by a part of the pariſh of Tibbermuir, which lies along the ſouth ſide of the Almond; there ſeems to have been an out-poſt, or Roman ſtation, which was probably connected with the winter camp, or the colonial town of Perth.

On a high ground on the north of the Almond, and which the water has been continuing to undermine for many years, Roman urns and pieces of armour have been diſcovered, which may be conſidered as indications of a battle having been fought in its neighbourhood, probably not far from the bottom of the Grampian mountains. It is ſaid alſo, that about a quarter of a mile farther north, in a clear day, when the water is low, the remains of a timber bridge may be ſeen in the bottom of the river.

This place, however, which was evidently an appendage of Perth, and where no regular town could have ever been built, has received, in contradiſtiction to Perth, ſince the days of Hector Boece, the name of Bertha.

It is not to be ſuppoſed that the natives of the country would affix to the town the Latin name Victoria. It might have recalled to their minds, perhaps, ſome ſignal victory

over them, which had given occaſion to the name. But they might make uſe of a word in their own language, ſuch as Bertha, to ſignify that the town appeared to them an illuſtrious piece of work.

Other occaſions of the name may be conjectured. Perhaps the Goddeſs Victoria was by the Romans worſhipped in a particular manner at Perth. Or, perhaps the Victorian legion might have a principal reſidence there, either while Agricola was governor, or in the next century, when the Romans were again on the north ſide of the Forth, and continued there 30 years.

§ 3. *The name St. Johnſton.*

The Picts, after they were converted to the Chriſtian religion, or the Scots, after their king had ſucceeded to the Pictiſh throne, conſecrated the church and bridge of Perth to St John Baptiſt, whom they ſeem alſo to have choſen tutelary ſaint of the town. In proceſs of time many perſons gave to the town the name of St Johnſton. But it was never ſo called in any of the public writs, nor by the inhabitants in general.

§ 4. *Seals, or Armorial Bearings of the Town.*

A common ſeal belonged to the Burgh of Perth, in the reign of Alexander II, and perhaps long before. I have ſeen no copy of it, and therefore know not whether it was the ſame which was afterwards uſed.

Many impreſſions of the ſeal, which was uſed from about the year 1400, are appended to charters which belonged to the religious houſes at Perth. On the obverſe, it repreſented the decollation of St John Baptiſt; Salome ſtanding by with a platter in her hand, to receive the head. On the reverſe, it repreſented the ſame ſaint inſhrined; and a number of prieſts, or other perſons, kneeling before him.

The

The legend round both ſides, *S. Communitatis ville Sancti Johannis Baptiſte de Berth.* The ſeal of the community of the town of St John Baptiſt of Berth.

The ſuperſtitious ſeal was laid aſide after the reformation of religion. The ſeal ſince uſed, refers to the Roman origin of the town. It bears a golden eagle diſplayed, viz. an eagle of the double or imperial kind; the two heads looking different ways. A red eſcutcheon, charged with the Holy Lamb, paſſant, carrying the banner of St Andrew within a ſilver double treſſure, ſurmounts the breaſt of the eagle. The legend, at the bottom, *Pro Rege, Lege, et Grege.* "For the "King, the Law, and the People."

Beſides the large or common ſeal, a ſmaller one is made uſe of on ſome occaſions. It bears a ſingle eagle, wholly ſurmounted, except the head and wings, with an eſcutcheon charged as the other. The ſurrounding inſcription is, *Sigillum ſecretum Burgi de Perth.*

§ 5. *Situation of the Town.*

Though that diſtrict of the county, in which Perth is ſituated, be commonly deſcribed as lying on the ſouth ſide of the Tay; yet, according to the turn which the river takes, the town may be ſaid to be ſituated on the weſt ſide. The principal ſtreets from the river run nearly from eaſt to weſt. Along the oppoſite bank, is the town of Bridge-end; the church and village of Kinnoul, and a number of villas with gardens, or pleaſure grounds, which extend a great way.

The town divides a very ſpacious plain, into what are called the north and ſouth Inches; each of which meaſures about a mile and a half in circumference. They are called Inches, or Iſlands, becauſe they have the Tay on the eaſt, and on the other ſides, the branches of a canal which comes

from the Almond, and which brings down a large proportion of that ſmall river to Perth.

The ſtone barrier at the head of the canal, which divides the water of the Almond, was moſt probably an invention and work of the Romans. The name which it bears, is Louis-wark; which, according to Shaw's Gaelic Dictionary, means water-work.

There are ſome documents of this canal having been in exiſtence before the time of Malcom Canmore; who, after the death of Macbeath, aſcended the throne in 1057. Without it, there could have been no ſupply of water for the mills which were then at Perth. It ſtill ſupplies the mills, and now alſo the wells with water, and formerly filled the ditches when the town was fortified.

The Inches are uſed partly for paſturing cattle belonging to the inhabitants, and partly for walking and other recreations. Alſo, as in the Campus Martius, military men perform their exerciſe there. Both the Inches are furniſhed with benches, and the ſouth Inch is ſurrounded by an avenue of trees of different kinds. A poet, or a painter, might find full ſcope in either of thoſe Inches, to indulge his particular genius.

To the weſt the proſpect is bounded, at about a mile's diſtance, by what is called the Moor. That part of it which belongs to Perth, contains a ſtone quarry, and is covered with an extenſive wood, which is of great value to the public revenue of the town.

The tide, from the German ocean, flows up the river by the ſouth ſide of the Carſe of Gowrie, and reaches, though not ſo full, about two miles above Perth. The ſpring or high tides bring ſhips, conſiderably above 100 tons burthen, cloſe to the ſhores of the town.

Sir Robert Sibbald, who had carefully traced the Roman roads or military ſtreets in this part of the country, deſcribes

which led to Perth. (Military Ways, p. 16.) One from Aberdour and Newbigging, through the town of Kinroſs to Perth. A ſecond, from the North Ferry, through the town of Kinroſs to Perth. A third, from the bridge of Stirling, through the town of Dumblane, and the Roman camp at Ardoch, to Perth. A fourth, from Abernethy to Perth.

At preſent, there are turnpike roads from all quarters; which, together with the conveniency of the bridge, attract a multitude of travellers.

§ 6. *A Miſtake to be rectified in former Hiſtories.*

Hector Boethius, or Boece, a native of Dundee, and Principal of the King's College of old Aberdeen, began, as he himſelf tells us, to write a hiſtory of Scotland in 1525, and finiſhed it in April, 1526. It was printed at Paris, in 1526, by Jodocus Badius, who complimented him in ſome Latin verſes, on his having transferred into his hiſtory, in the behalf of the Scots, "the grace, and milky eloquence of "Livy."

Boece's hiſtory was held, for a time, in great reputation. It was cloſely followed by Buchanan and others. But how he has amplified, with fabulous circumſtances, many of the events mentioned in Fordun's Chronicle, which was evidently his text book, has been illuſtrated, with a peculiar degree of ſpirit, by the late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, in his "Annals of Scotland," and in ſome of his ſmaller pieces. At preſent, no credit is given to Boece, but in ſo far as his aſſertions are ſupported by better teſtimony.

Among his other amplifications of what Fordun has related, is his tragical ſtory of the deſolation of Perth by water, in the year 1210, (Lib. 13. Fol. 288. firſt edition.)

It would be tedious to quote the whole paſſage, which is a pretty long one. What I find moſt fault with in it, is his aſ-

sertion, that Perth is not the ancient Bertha, but a new city built in another place by King William, after Bertha had been destroyed: though he grants that the Burrow-privilege of the old city was transferred to the new.

Fordun wrote his history long before the time of Boece. Major's history was printed in 1521. Both these authors relate, that an inundation happened at Perth, in 1210. But their relations of it were very different from that which was afterwards given by Boece.

The following account of it comprehends all the particulars mentioned by Fordun and Major.

"In the year 1210, and, as some would have it, about the "time of the feast of St Michael, there happened such a "great fall of rain, as made the brooks and rivers exceed "their usual channels, and carry off much of the harvest "crop from the fields.

"The water of Tay, with the water of Almond, being "swelled by the increasing rain, and by a spring tide from "the sea, passed through a great part of that town, which of "old, was called Bertha, now also Perth, in Scotland. In "consequence of a mound or rampart giving way, not only "some houses, but also the large bridge of St John, with an "ancient chapel, were overthrown.

"William the King, David Earl of Huntington the King's "brother, Alexander the King's Son, with some of the prin-"cipal nobility, went into a boat, and sailed quickly out of "the town, otherwise possibly they might have perished. "Of the burgesses, and other persons of both sexes, some "went into boats, and others fled, for safety, to the galleries "or balconies which were over their houses."

I have to add to this description, that it is full sea or tide at Perth, about 2 hours 18 minutes after the moon's southing. According to a calculation made by a learned gentleman, the

spring

ſpring tides, on Monday, October 4th, 1210, happened at Perth, 18 minutes paſt 2 in the morning; and 42 minutes paſt 2 in the afternoon.

It may be ſatisfactory to give the progreſs of the king, as it may be traced in Fordun's hiſtory. In ſummer 1210, the king who was then aged and infirm, went to amuſe himſelf in the province of Moray, where the place of his birth was. In his return, he fell ſick at Kintore, a town in the diſtrict of Garioch, and county of Aberdeen. He did not recover till September 21ſt, and then was ſo well, as to come to Forfar; where he remained a little time. From thence he came to Perth, being on his way to Stirling, where he was to hold a parliament, or a great council as Fordun calls it, a ſhort while after Michaelmaſs.

The uſual reſidence of the king, when at Perth, before the Dominican Monaſtery was built, was the old caſtle which ſtood on the north ſide of the town, where the ſtreet now is; which for more than 400 years has been called by the name of the Caſtle Gavel.

It was noticed under a former head, that a large portion of the water of the Almond is conveyed by the aqueduct to Perth. Even now, ſince the ſtreets have been conſiderably raiſed, when any inundation happens, the water of that ſmaller river, as well as the water of the Tay, may be ſaid to flow in great abundance in ſome parts of the town.

It was to guard the town againſt dangerous inundations, that the ſtreets were raiſed from time to time. Old ſtreets, well paved, are found 6, 8, or 10 feet below the preſent ſurface. Subterraneous apartments ſometimes have been diſcovered. Within theſe 12 years, ſome maſons came to what they reckoned to have been a ſtable or cow-houſe. They could not, with any certainty, diſcern the walls, which probably had been originally of turf or clay. But they found 4 ſtakes,

ſtakes, and alſo a manger, wholly and very neatly wrought of the twigs of trees; a kind of work which was much practiſed by the ancient Britons.

According to the courſe of natural cauſes, the bed of the river muſt alſo have been conſiderably raiſed. An old reverend gentleman, who died a few years ago, in a manuſcript hiſtory of his pariſh, in which are ſome high mountains, wrote as follows:

"The ſoil waſhed away by the heavy rains is carried "down from the high mountains into the ſtreams and ri-"vers, and by them into the ſea; where it ſubſides, and "gaining on the ſea has made our Carſes of Gowrie, Stir-"ling, and Falkirk. In proof of which, ſome perſons dig-"ging for coals in the Carſe of Falkirk, found a complete "boat in the clay, 5 fathoms deep; and ſome other perſons, "digging for a draw-well in Perth, found at 3 fathoms below "the level of the bottom of the river Tay, tripods or chairs, "and ſome other pieces of houſehold furniture."

Walter Goodall, in his edition of Fordun's Scoti-Chronicon, in the year 1759, thought it neceſſary, for the vindication of the antiquities of Perth, to ſubjoin to the account which Fordun gives, (vol. i. p. 528.) an annotation from a Latin manuſcript in the College of Edinburgh. Of a part of which the following is a tranſlation.

"The author, viz. Fordun, plainly relates theſe things "concerning one and the ſame city. But Hector Boece, "and George Buchanan his follower, tell a fabulous ſtory "of an ancient city Bertha, which from thenceforth was "entirely deſerted; and of another, and new city, built in "another place, by King William, and which was called "Perth, from a noble perſon of that name, who contributed "his lands to the building of the town."

The annotator thus takes away from Boece's ſtory, that part which relates to the change of the name, and ſituation of Perth. Lord Hailes, in his Annals, ſub anno 1210, takes away the other exceptionable part, wherein Boece ſays, an infant ſon of the king and many other perſons were drowned.

His Lordſhip had been induced to retain what related to the change of Perth. He was pleaſed to inform me, that for once, he had put ſome confidence in an aſſertion of Boece, thinking it ſcarcely poſſible for Boece to miſtake, or venture to write what he knew to be falſe, concerning a town only 20 miles diſtant from the place of his birth. But his Lordſhip did not advert to the diſputes about priority, and other ſuch matters; which, in the time of Boece, and near 100 years after, were keenly agitated, ſometimes not without bloodſhed, between the two very ancient towns of Perth and Dundee.

In ſupport of what the annotator or Fordun has obſerved,

1. It is certain that the town had the name of Perth, long before the year 1210. There are many hundreds of charters from about the year 1106, to the year 1210, ſtill extant. Any perſon who will take the trouble of looking into theſe charters, will find, that whenever there was occaſion to mention the town, its name was always written Perth, or Pertht, or, by way of contraction, Pert, the ſame as afterwards.

There was no noble perſon who gave his name to Perth; but there were ſome perſons who took their ſirname from that town. It was a mere local ſirname, as many others were. Thus, in ancient, as well as in modern writs, perſons are mentioned of the following ſirnames, viz. Stirling, Aberdeen, Abernethy, Dundee, Kirkaldy, Hawick, Muſſelburgh, and many others of the ſame kind.

2. It

2. It is certain, that tenements and ſtreets in Perth are deſcribed in charters, prior to the year 1210, the ſame as they afterwards were; which would not have been the caſe, if the old town had been deſtroyed.

I crave the indulgence of producing one inſtance from two charters which belonged to the Abbey of Scone, and which are contained in the old chartulary, preſerved in the Advocates Library at Edinburgh. They are not very long. I ſhall therefore give tranſlations of them, only adding the original words where the tenements and ſtreet are deſcribed.

I. "CHARTER of WILLIAM the KING, to HENRY BALD, concerning a land in PERTH.

"William, by the Grace of God, King of Scots, to all "good men of his whole Realm, Clergy and Laity, Greeting.

"Know all, who are, or ſhall be, me to have given, and "conſigned, and by this my preſent charter, to have confirmed, to Henry Bald, that land in my Burgh of Perth, which "James the ſon of Simon, and others, my Provoſt of Perth, "have delivered to him according to my precept.

"To wit, that land which is in the front of the ſtreet, "which leads from the church of St John Baptiſt, to the caſtle of Perth, on the eaſt ſide, oppoſite to the houſe of Andrew, the ſon of Simon. (Illam ſcilicet, quæ eſt in fronte "vici illius, qui tendit de Eccleſia Sancti Johannis Baptiſti, "uſque ad Caſtellum de Pert, ex orientali parte, contra domum Andreæ filii Simonis.)

"To be held to him and his heirs, of me and my heirs, in "fee and heritage, freely, peaceably, fully and honourably. "Rendering thence yearly to my Chamberlain one pound of "pepper at the feaſt of St Michael.

"Witneſſes,

"Witneſſes, Hugh Chancellor; Philip de Valliams my "Chamberlain; Malcolm Son of Earl Duncan; William de "Hay; Alexander Sheriff of Stirling; Roger de Mortimer; "Philip de Lundin; at Perth, 14th day of April."

To aſcertain the year in which this charter was granted, it is neceſſary to make the following remarks concerning the witneſſes.

1. Philip de Valliams was made great Chamberlain, about the year 1180. But he continued in that office about 33 years.

2. Duncan M'Duff, the father of Malcolm Earl of Fife, died in 1203.

3. William de Hay died before the year 1199.

4. Hugh Roxburgh, Biſhop of Glaſgow, was made Chancellor of Scotland in 1189, and died, Ides of July, 1199.

The above charter to Henry Bald muſt therefore have been granted betwixt the years 1189, and 1199.

II. "CHARTER by HENRY BALD Goldſmith, to the Monaſ-"tery at SCONE."

"To all, who ſhall ſee or hear theſe letters, Henry Bald, "Goldſmith of Perth, wiſhes ſalvation.

"Know all of you, me to have given and conſigned, and "by this my preſent charter, to have confirmed, to God, and "to the church of the Holy Trinity, and of St Michael of "Scone; and to the abbot and canons ſerving God, and to "ſerve him there; in pure and perpetual alms, my two booths, "with the gallery placed above them, within the burgh of "Perth: in that land, which William, of pious memory, "King of Scots, granted to me for my homage and ſervice. "(Duas bothas meas, cum ſolario ſuperpoſito, in burgo de "Pert;

" Pert; in terra illa quam Guliel̃mus, piæ memoriæ, Rex
" Scotorum, mihi dedit pro homagio et ſervitio meo.)

" To wit, theſe two booths which are in the front of the
" ſtreet, which leads from the church of St John Baptiſt, to-
" wards the caſtle of Perth, on the eaſt ſide, oppoſite to the
" houſe of Andrew, the ſon of Simon; thoſe two booths,
" to wit, which are towards the north; (ſcilicet, illas duas
" bothas, quæ ſunt in fronte vici illius, qui tendit de Eccleſia
" Sancti Johannis Baptiſti, verſus Caſtellum de Pert, in ori-
" entali parte, contra domum Andreæ filii Simonis; (videli-
" cet, illas duas bothas verſus aquilonem.)

" To be held and retained for ever, freely, peaceably, fully,
" and honourably; rendering thence yearly to the Cham-
" berlain of our Sovereign Lord, King of Scots, one pound
" of pepper at the feaſt of St Michael, in lieu of all ſervice;
" and to the Monks of Cupar yearly, one half ſtone of wax,
" at the purification of the Bleſſed Mary, in name of alms.

" And that this my donation may be ratified and incontra-
" vertible, I have confirmed this preſent page by my ſeal.
" And as my ſeal is not authentic, the common ſeal of the
" Burgh of Perth is, at my deſire, appended.

" Witneſſes, Walter de Newton, and Henry de Abirnitie,
" Knights; Galfrid de Perth, Clerk of our Lord the King;
" Henry his Son; Galfrid Provoſt of Perth; Richard de
" Leyceſter; John, Son of Lenna; David Jape; William de
" Dunde; James, Son of James Son of Hutred; William
" Sper; Richard de Lenna; and many others."

The date of this Charter cannot eaſily be aſcertained by the names of the witneſſes. William, King of Scots, is mentioned as dead. He died, December 4th 1214, and was ſucceeded by his Son Alexander II. who died July 8th 1249. It is ranked in the chartulary, among thoſe charters which were granted in the reign of Alexander II. It could not be

granted very late in that reign; becauſe Henry Bald, and Andrew the Son of Simon, who were living before the year 1199, were ſtill alive. But Henry Bald, who had become a Goldſmith, or Banker as the term anciently implied, ſeems to have been old, and preparing for death, by giving two of his ſhops in his tenement in Perth, as alms to the Monaſtery.

Every one who compares theſe two charters, may ſee that no alteration of the town had taken place, in the interval betwixt the year 1199, and probably the middle of the reign of Alexander II.

3. The original charter which King William granted to the town of Perth, dated at Stirling, on the Lord's day, October 10th, and which by the names of the witneſſes, is aſcertained to have been in the year 1210, is ſtill extant.

A tranſlation has been circulated among ſome of the Burgeſſes. It does not make the ſmalleſt mention of any change of the name, or of the ſituation of the town, which it certainly would have done, if any ſuch changes had happened. The King confirms the privileges which the burgh enjoyed in the time of his grandfather King David, who died in 1153, and adds ſome new privileges.

He was holding his great council, or Parliament at Stirling, which Fordun ſays, was to meet ſhortly after Michaelmaſs in 1210. The public writs were dated, as if granted on the day of the commencement of the Parliament. The King, that he might be enabled to fulfil his treaty with King John of England, craved, and obtained a ſubſidy of 16000 merks; of which very large ſum in thoſe days the Barons agreed to pay 10,000, and the Burrows 6000. On that occaſion, the Burrow of Perth ſeems to have been rewarded with a very clear and particular charter of privileges.

4. Still more to confute the ſtory of Boece, there is a charter by Walter, ſon of Alan, one of the anceſtors of the Lords

of Ruthven, to the abbey of Scone. It appears from the names of ſome of the witneſſes, that it was granted in or before the year 1200. In this charter, the ſituation of Perth at the time is marked beyond all doubt, by a deſcription of the road which led from Perth to Tibbermuir.

"I grant," ſays the above named donor, "and by this my "charter, have confirmed to God, and to the church of the "Holy Trinity, and of St Michael of Scone, and to the ca-"nons ſerving God, and to ſerve him there, that whole land "which Suane the ſon of Thone my grandfather, gave to "them in Tibbermore, according to its marches, viz. From "the King's well on the ſtreet which comes from Perth, and "leads to the foreſaid village." (Scilicet, a fonte Regis, qui eſt ſuper ſtratam quæ venit de Pert, et tendit in villam præfatam.)

The King's well, is about 2 miles weſt from Perth, and in the ſtraight road to Tibbermuir. If Perth had then been ſituated 2 miles up the river, and on the north of the Almond, the road from it to Tibbermuir would have had a quite different direction, a great way to the north and weſt of the King's well.

I regret that I ſhould take up ſo much room in Sir John Sinclair's Publication. But juſtice to the town ſeems to require it. In almoſt all hiſtorical writings, or books of travels, in which Perth is deſcribed, Boece's ſtory is retailed, or alluded to; ſo that no real hiſtory of Perth can be given, till that fable be exploded.

It is ſurpriſing, that during the courſe of 270 years, no perſon ſeems to have been at ſufficient pains, to examine what Boece had ſaid of Perth, by comparing it with authentic records; or at leaſt, that no perſon who had done ſo, was ſuch a warm friend to truth and to the antiquities of Perth,

as

as to make public the particulars of the evidence on which the ſtory is confuted.

Sir Robert Sibbald was much perplexed, in his treatiſe on "the Roman ports on the ſouth ſide of the Tay." He found evidence that the Romans had a ſtation, or colonial town at Perth. But he had not taken the opportunities of fully confuting what Boece had ſaid. Therefore, he ſuppoſes, that when Bertha was deſtroyed, the new town of Perth was built where the ruins of the old Roman ſtation were.

But it would have been better to have had recourſe to his favourite hypotheſis of the winter and ſummer camps; and to have ſuppoſed, that the ſtation in the pariſh of Redgorton, 2 miles above Perth, had been the ſummer camp, and an appendage of the colonial town.

I beg leave juſt to obſerve, that the kingdom was divided into pariſhes, long before the time of King William the Lion. Malcolm Canmore gave, and afterwards his ſucceſſors confirmed, to the abbey of Dumfermling, the church and parſonage tithes of the town and pariſh of Perth. I have ſeen the old chartulary of that abbey. The abbot and Monks continued to receive the tithes, and to regulate what concerned the church of Perth; but they never had any thing to do with the church and tithes of the pariſh of Redgorton.

§ 7. *Boundaries and Extent of the Pariſh.*

Excepting a part of the ground weſt from the town, where there is an encroachment from the pariſh of Tibbermuir, the pariſh of Perth bears, in its figure, ſome reſemblance to a ſemi-circle; the river of Tay, on the eaſt, forming the diameter. The length, from ſouth to north, is about 4 miles; and the greateſt breadth, from eaſt to weſt, is about 3 miles. The town is ſituated nearer to the north, than to the other extremity of the pariſh.

The

The Tay ſeparates the pariſh of Perth from the oppoſite pariſhes of Scone, Kinnoul, and Kinfauns. On the north, it is bounded by the pariſh of Tibbermuir. On the weſt, by the pariſhes of Tibbermuir, and Aberdalgie. On the ſouth, by the pariſhes of Forteviot, and Dunbarny. And on the ſouth eaſt, by the pariſh of Rynd.

§ 8. *Heritors.*

The heritors in the country part of the pariſh, are the Earl of Kinnoul, Lord Gray, Sir Thomas Moncrief, the heirs of Oliphant of Bachilton, Mr Marſhall of Hillcairnie, Dr Arnot, Colonel Mark Wood, M. P. Mr Anderſon of Blackfriars; the town of Perth, King James VI.'s Hoſpital of Perth; Glover Incorporation; Taylor Incorporation; Robertſon and company.

The yearly rent of the lands, in the country part of the pariſh, is reckoned to amount to about L. 6000.

§ 9. *Soil, and Cultivation.*

The ſoil is partly loam, and partly clay. The lands being in the neighbourhood of a populous town, and of a port to which great quantities of lime are conveyed, are generally ſo well cultivated, as to yield rich crops.

§ 10. *Remarkable Villages.*

The remarkable villages, are the caſtle of Balhouſie, an ancient ſeat of the Earls of Kinnoul. The caſtle of Pittheveleſs, an ancient ſeat of the Lords of Oliphant. Feu-houſe, a ſeat belonging to Mr Marſhall of Hillcairney.

The old caſtle which belonged to Roſs of Craigie, has long been demoliſhed; but in the ſite of it, there is a pleaſant and pretty populous village. The village of Craigie-mill, where a great brewerie is eſtabliſhed, is alſo populous.

An

An extenſive bleachfield has long been eſtabliſhed, upon the canal from the Almond, at the village of Tulloch, which has thereby become conſiderable. Muirton of Balhouſie, is the largeſt and moſt populous of any of the villages.

I forbear to mention the ſuburbs, or the ſtreets and portions of land which lie on the outſide of the ancient line of the walls of the town. It is difficult in ſome inſtances to determine which of them are not, and which of them are really comprehended in the royalty.

The pariſh of Perth is ſo much occupied, and ſo much ſurrounded through a great extent of the country, with entailed eſtates, that the merchants, who have ſucceeded in trade, are diſcouraged from laying out their money in the purchaſe of lands. Some of them have been obliged to purchaſe eſtates at a conſiderable diſtance.

§ 11. *Trade.*

In the early times Perth was a place of great trade. Alexander Necham, an Engliſh writer, who read lectures at Paris in 1180, was made Abbot of Exeter in 1215, and died in 1227, takes notice of Perth in the following diſtich, quoted in Camden's Britannia.

"*Tranſis ample Tai, per rura, per oppida, per Perth.*
"*Regnum ſuſtentant illius urbis opes.*"

Thus Engliſhed in Biſhop Gibſon's Tranſlation of Camden's Book.

"*Great Tay through Perth, through towns, through country flies.*
"*Perth the whole Kingdom with her wealth ſupplies.*"

The literal verſion is, "Go on great Tay, through fields, "through towns, through Perth. The wealth of that city "ſupports the kingdom."

An

An extenſive commerce was carried on, during many ages, between Perth and the Netherlands. The merchants of Perth viſited in their own ſhips, the Hanſe towns. And it is a part of the eulogium conferred on Alexander III. who died in 1286, that he deviſed ſucceſsful meaſures for ſecuring the trading ſhips of the nation, "againſt Pirates, and againſt "being detained on ſlight pretences in any of the foreign ports. "In conſequence of the care which he exerciſed about the "trade of the kingdom, which for ſome years, during his "minority, had been on the decline; multitudes of ſhips "ſoon came from diverſe regions, loaded with goods of va-"rious kinds, to be exchanged for the commodities of this "country." (Fordun, vol. ii. p. 130.)

The German merchants, or Flemings as they were called, very early frequented the port of Perth. And not a few induſtrious Germans, who wrought in the woollen and linen manufactories, and in ſtaining of cloth, ſeem to have fixed their abode at Perth, and to have been received as burgeſſes.

But King William the Lion, following the example of his grandfather King David, put the foreign merchants under a great reſtriction when they came to Perth with their goods, in a charter which he gave to the town, in the year 1210. And, in that ſame charter, as a farther diſcouragement, he granted to his burgeſſes of Perth, "that they might have "their own merchant gild, fullers and weavers excepted."

What ſeems to have been the political reaſon of the exception of theſe two trades, viz. the apprehenſion of an inundation of foreigners, has long ſince ceaſed to exiſt. The fullers have been admitted members of the Guildry. The weavers have their own incorporation, and the Legiſlature, ſo far from being apprehenſive of the conſequences formerly dreaded, has of late years, for the encouragement of manufactures, allowed that weavers may exerciſe their trade freely in all the

the burroughs, though ſuch of them as have been already incorporated, are not obliged to receive any others into their legally conſtituted ſociety, but on certain conditions.

It is neceſſary, in this Statiſtical Account, to paſs over the different turns which trade has taken in Perth, and to offer a view of what may be conſidered as its preſent ſtate. In this, I have been aſſiſted by others, and ſhall inſert what I have received from them.

The Literary and Antiquarian Society of Perth nominated a number of gentlemen, who are members of the ſociety, and who are well acquainted with trade, to make a ſtatement of the articles comprehended in the diſtrict of the town, the cuſtom-houſe, and linen ſtamp-office, which may be called the trade of the place. The following report was given in, ſubſcribed by Mr John Young, as Chairman of the committee, who had taken a great deal of trouble in collecting the materials. The report was dated June 10th, 1794, with a note added, which bore that the ſeveral articles were not over-rated; but rather, if there was any error, under-rated.

"*Manufactures.*—The ſtaple manufacture of Perth is linen; and of late, a conſiderable quantity of cotton-cloth. There are above 1500 looms employed in the town and ſuburbs; which manufacture of linen and cottons, annually, about L. 100,000 ſterling value. Beſides this, there is, at leaſt L. 120,000 ſterling more in value of linen, purchaſed in the Perth market by the dealers. Theſe goods are wove in the ſurrounding country, and all paſs through the hands of the traders in Perth; ſo that the total of the linen and cotton manufactures, amounts to about L. 220,000 ſterling. The different fabrics, and the general purpoſes to which they are applied, together with their extent, may be arranged as follows:

1. Brown and white fine threaded linens, denominated *Sileſias*, chiefly printed for handkerchiefs; with *Britannias*, *Kentings*, &c. for export trade, may be eſtimated above, L. 120,000.

These articles Perth has been long famed for manufacturing.

2. Stout Holland ſheetings of various breadths; with $\frac{7}{8}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$ Holland ſhirting, and a few long lawns, above, - - 12,000

3. Four-fourths wide brown and white country linen, chiefly uſed for hat-linings, buckrams, &c. Brown Hollands, Heſſians, packſheetings, and other coarſe fabrics, manufactured in the neighbourhood; including ſoldiers ſhirtings, with a few coarſe ſheetings, and Oſnaburgs purchaſed. - 20,000

4. Five-fourths wide umbrella linens, and linens for window blinds, &c. above - 8,000

5. The cotton manufacture was rapidly extending; but met with a ſevere check laſt ſummer, by a reduction of the value of goods manufactured, and has not yet recovered its former vigour. The ſhock did not affect the linen manufactures in a ſimilar degree.

Shawl-cloths, calicoes and muſlins, with a very few pulicate handkerchiefs, are produced from cotton-yarn, which were eſtimated within bounds, at L. 80,000 ſterling *per annum*; but owing to the late check in the market, ſhall only be extended to 60,000

Total amount of the linen and cotton-trade, which the committee are confident is under-rated. - - L. 220,000

Printing

Printing Works.—There are 3 printing-works in this neighbourhood, ſome of them only lately eſtabliſhed, carried on by companies reſiding in Perth, viz.

Ruthven print-field, in the barony of Huntingtower, upon the property of the Duke of Athole, carried on by Young, Roſs, Richardſon, and Caw.

Cromwell-park, eſtabliſhed on the grounds of Thomas Graham, Eſq. of Balgowan, Member of Parliament for the county of Perth, under the firm of Meliſs and Co.

And Tulloch print-field in the vicinity, on the property of the Earl of Kinnoul, carried on by Sandeman Lindſay, and Co.

Theſe works at preſent may be eſtimated to do buſineſs, at leaſt to the extent of L. 80,000 ſterling *per annum*, and on the increaſe, being moſtly new eſtabliſhments.

The produce of theſe works, is ſhipped at Perth, chiefly for the London market. The printers here have a full command of the article of Sileſia linen for handkerchief printing, being the ſtaple manufacture of the town and neighbourhood; they likewiſe ſupply part of the country demand, in England and Scotland.

Cotton-Works.—At Stanly, there is a conſiderable cotton-mill for ſpinning twiſt, by water, the firſt that was eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood; in which Sir Richard Arkwright intereſted himſelf much in the outſet, George Dempſter, Eſq. and company. The proprietors have lately built another mill, which will probably be employed ſoon in ſpinning *linen-yarn* by water.

There is alſo a cotton-work for ſpinning twiſt, by water, at Cromwell-park, under the firm of Wright, Meliſs, and company; and a ſmaller one at Stormont bleach-field, belonging to Thomas and John Barland. The operation of

all theſe will produce above L. 30,000 ſterling annually, and they are on the increaſe, being new eſtabliſhments.

There is cotton ſpun in the town, and at Luncarty bleachfield, by water, for wefts and other purpoſes, ſuch as the manufacture of ſtockings, &c. to the extent of L. 5000 ſter. *per annum*, only lately begun.

Bleachfields.—There are 4 public bleachfields in this neighbourhood, that whiten cloth for the country round, and for the manufacturers in the principal towns of Scotland, and even ſome of them have quantities of cloth from England to bleach.

At Luncarty bleachfield, they whiten annually on an average, 600,000 yards of linen, ⅓ds of which may be called low priced linens, with diaper and table linens, from Dumfermline, Edinburgh, Perth, &c.; and the other third conſiſts of fine linens and ſheetings. This work is carried on by Sandeman, Turnbull, and Co. and is on the ground of Thomas Graham, Eſq. of Balgowan. The ſame company have another bleachfield at Tulloch, where they whiten about 300,000 yards annually of linen for the public. They are chiefly low priced linens.

At Huntingtower bleach-field, (upon the Duke of Athole's eſtate,) carried on by Richardſon and Co. Thomas Young manager, there are fully 600,000 yards of linen bleached annually, about ⅓ds of which, are low priced goods, the other third conſiſts of diaper and fine goods.

At Stormont bleach-field, carried on by Thomas and John Barland, on the ground of the Earl of Mansfield, they whiten to the extent of 450,000 yards annually; ⅓ds Sileſias, Britannias, ſhirtings, &c. and the other third Diaper and fine goods.

At

At both Luncarty and Huntingtower, there is ſometimes in the throng of the ſeaſon, above 60 Scots acres at each work covered with linens.

Leather Manufacture.—The manufacture of ſhoes and boots is carried on here with great nicety, to the extent of at leaſt L. 8000 *per annum*, chiefly ſhipped for the London market.

They prepare at the tan-works, from 4 to 5000 hides, and about 500 dozen calf ſkins annually; and do buſineſs in tanning to the extent of L. 10,000 ſterling yearly.

Paper Mills.—There are 3 mills for the manufacture of paper in this neighbourhood, which contain at preſent 6 vatts; but are conſtructed, ſo as to admit of 9.

Theſe mills produce at preſent, from 9 to 10,000 reams of writing and printing paper; and from 7 to 8000 blue; cartridge, brown, grey, and other packing papers, value above L. 8000 ſterling *per annum;* and increaſing in value in proportion to the quantity of *fine paper* manufactured. This manufactory, though only lately taken up by Moriſon and Lindſay of this town, is allowed to produce uncommonly fine writing paper, which is chiefly ſent to the London market.

Lintſeed Oil.—The cruſhing of lintſeed into oil, has been a trade in this town and neighbourhood for many years paſt; but it is now on the decline: the firſt mill erected in Scotland for the above purpoſe, was at Huntingtower about 2 miles from this town.

Salmon Fiſhings.—The ſalmon fiſhery on the Tay is very extenſive; and the rent conſiderably increaſed of late. It may be ſtated at L. 7000 ſterling *per annum*; of which the community of Perth draws above L. 1000 ſterling of rent.

The

The fiſhing begins on the 11th of December, and is given up on the 26th of Auguſt.

The ſpring and part of the ſummer fiſh go freſh, packed in ice, to the London market; and when plentiful in warm weather, they are pickled for the ſame market. No town in Scotland is better appointed for intercourſe with London than Perth, as every 4 days, at leaſt during the fiſhing ſeaſon, 1 ſmack ſails, and in general, makes the paſſage up within the week, if the weather be any way favourable; and the paſſage to London has often been performed within 60 hours; the veſſels return with porter, cheeſe, groceries, and other goods, for the conſumpt of the town, and ſupply of an extenſive riſing country. There are 7 veſſels conſtantly employed in the trade.

Mills.—The mills belonging to the community or burrough of Perth, are rented by Ramſay, Whittel and Co. at about L. 800 ſterling *per annum.*

The leading article they manufacture is wheat into flour; about two thirds of which may be ſuppoſed on their own account, for the ſupply of the town and neighbourhood; beſides, quantities are occaſionally ſhipped to the different towns of Scotland. The other third may be ſtated as manufactured at theſe mills by the bakers in town, for which they pay multure to the company at a fixed rate, agreeable to the old charter of the burrough. The quantity ground may be eſtimated upon an average, at 60 bolls per day. They alſo grind at theſe town mills, malt, bear, oats, and peaſe; and manufacture barley to a conſiderable amount. But the article of malt is greatly diminiſhed ſince the late Act of Parliament, which prohibited the working of the ſmall ſtills in this diſtrict, the line being fixed to the northward of Perth.

This

This company likewiſe rent from Lord Kinnoul the Balhouſie flour and meal mill adjacent, where they alſo manufacture conſiderable quantities of flour and oat-meal.

The flour mill of Pitcairn in this neighbourhood, pariſh of Redgorton, the property of Lord Methven, is employed by Mr James Ray, the granaries of which are likewiſe in Perth; it is ſuppoſed to manufacture at leaſt 5000 bolls of wheat into flour at an average annually, which is moſtly conſumed in Perth and its neighbourhood.

Foreign Trade.—The exports from this to foreign parts are ſo very inconſiderable, as not to merit any ſtatement.

The imports from foreign countries, may be computed above L. 30,000 ſterling *per annum*, of which above L. 9000 value may be reckoned for flax and flax-ſeed. There are conſiderable quantities of wood, iron, and wine imported, and occaſionally ſome grain.

The following ſtatement from the cuſtom-houſe books, for an average of 5 years, will ſhew the flax and lint-ſeed trade.

Imported from 10th October 1783, to 10th October 1788. Say a quantity which leaves an average importation for each year of

48 Tons of flax from Holland.
23 Do from other ports.
71 Tons of flax, and 1177 hhds. of lintſeed.

at an average of 5 years, from 10th October 1788, to 10th October 1793, there were annually imported,

63 Tons of flax from Holland.
15 Do. from other ports.
78 Tons of flax, and 1671 hhds. of lintſeed.

Coaſting

Coaſting Trade.—It appears, that there were 209 veſſels cleared out in the year 1781, and in the year 1791, there were 319 veſſels.

Arrivals of Coaſters Inwards;

In 1781——518 veſſels.
And in 1791——887 Do.

the difference of which chiefly ariſes by arrivals of veſſels with lime-ſtone, of which in

1781 there were only 88 veſſels,
And in 1791 there were no leſs than 360 do.

which ſhews the increaſing improvements in agriculture."

I was likewiſe favoured with the following particulars, relating to the glover incorporation and their trade, in a letter from Mr Robert Gray, glover in Perth, dated November 27th 1794.

"The ſkinners and glovers are one incorporation. There are about 70 freemen members of it; not all operative indeed; any thing conſiderable in the buſineſs, is in a few hands. Excepting the Guildry, they are poſſeſſed of a larger fund for their poor, than any other incorporation in Perth.

This incorporation has a very convenient ſkinner work, and dreſs about 30,000 ſheep and ſlaughtered lamb-ſkins yearly. More than 20,000 of theſe, are of the ſheep and lambs killed in the town. The reſt are from the neighbouring country, and from the Highlands. Moſt of them are ſent to the London market, and are much eſteemed for their cleanneſs from greaſe, and for their fineneſs of grain.

There are beſides theſe, a good many ſmall and ſlink kid, and *mert* lamb-ſkins dreſſed here, which are got from the north-weſt of Scotland. But kids having become ſcarce from the breed of goats not being encouraged in the Highlands, on

account of the plantations, they have of late been in part ſupplied with Italian kid, and lamb ſkins for their glove manufactory; and they have a plentiful ſupply of *mort* lamb-ſkins for that purpoſe, from the ſouth of Scotland; and particularly from the country bordering on the river Tweed.

The glovers here have been long famous for making good gloves. The quantity manufactured yearly, is from 2 to 3000 dozen of pairs, and are chiefly for home conſumption."

I have have alſo been favoured by Mr James Moriſon, with the following account of the book-trade carried on by him and his brother. He ſays, in a letter dated June 10th 1794, "Since January laſt, we have printed about 14,000 volumes. "So that you may ſafely ſtate, that except Edinburgh and "Glaſgow, Perth is the only town in Scotland where books "are printed to any extent; and that there are generally "from 20 to 30,000 volumes printed here annually."

Since the above date, the Univerſity of St Andrew's have appointed the Moriſons in Perth to be their printers.

§ 12. *Manners.*

I ſee nothing in the manners of the inhabitants of Perth to diſtinguiſh them, in any very great degree, from the manners of the inhabitants of ſuch other towns, as are ſaid, in the modern ſenſe of the expreſſion, to be in an improved ſtate. There are perſons I hope in all places, who deſerve much to be commended, and there are others who need a reformation.

An increaſe of trade brings along with it an increaſe of wealth to the merchants, and of days wages to the operative people: Its natural conſequence, therefore, is, a manner of living ſcarcely known in the former times.

It is too much the caſe with the generality of mankind, that their piety does not increaſe, in equal proportion to their

wealth; whereas the bounties of the Divine Providence, when they are liberally conferred, ought to excite in the perſons who receive them, a diſpoſition to make greater and more devout returns of gratitude to God.

Some of the public amuſements common in other places, are to be found in Perth. Among theſe, particular notice may be taken of the amuſements of the theatre. Players occaſionally come to Perth, and ſometimes they remain very long.

It is generally acknowledged, that many of the plays, commonly acted, have an immoral tendency; and the political conſequence of ſuch a captivating amuſement, frequently introduced in a commercial city, cannot be a good one.

It may afford what may be reckoned a piece of curious information, to relate how plays were regulated in Perth, more than 200 years ago. It appears from the old records, that a company of players were in Perth, June 3d, 1589. In obedience to an act of the General Aſſembly, which had been made in the year 1574—5, they applied to the conſiſtory of the church for a licence, and ſhewed a copy of the play, which they propoſed to exhibit.

The words of the record, ſome of them a little moderniſed, are, "Perth, June 3d, 1589, The miniſter and elders give "licence to play the play, with conditions that no ſwearing, "banning, nor one ſcurrility ſhall be ſpoken, which would "be a ſcandal to our religion which we profeſs, and for an "evil example unto others. Alſo, that nothing ſhall be ad-"ded to what is in the regiſter of the play itſelf. If any one "who plays ſhall do in the contrary, he ſhall be warded, and "make his public repentance." That is, he was to be impriſoned, and afterwards to appear in the church to be rebuked in the public place of repentance.

Guthry,

Guthry, in his Hiſtory of Scotland, when ſpeaking of a company of Engliſh players, who came to Scotland in the year 1599, ſays, "I have great reaſon to think that Shake-"ſpear was one of the number." That actor and writer of plays, moſt probably, began his excurſions before the year 1589. If therefore they were Engliſh actors who were at Perth that year, he might perhaps be one of them.

In the record, the miniſter and elders ſpeak of the actors as being all of them men. For it was not till ſome time after the reſtoration of King Charles II. that women appeared upon the ſtage. No doubt, if ſome reſtrictions, ſimilar to thoſe in the record were now in uſe, a reformation of the ſtage might be expected.

There are no hackney coaches in Perth, but many poſt-chaiſes, which are often uſed as ſuch coaches are in the larger towns. There are ſome perſons who keep carriages of their own; and ſtill a greater number who keep men-ſervants in livery, as being ſuitable to the ſtile of living which they are able to ſupport.

There are great taverns, and a coffee-room; but there are no gaming-houſes that I know of, nor any perſons who ſeem to make gaming a trade. The opulent inhabitants live genteely, and are cautious not to exceed in their expences. In the year 1793, when there were many failures in other places, there was not one of any conſequence in Perth. It has often been noticed, as what is honourable to Perth, that thoſe of the better rank, ſet a good example, by giving a regular attendance in the churches.

The craftſmen in Perth, were long diſtinguiſhed by a ſtrict regard to religion, and by the remarkable care which they took in training up their children, their apprentices, and even their journeymen, in good principles and practices. I truſt it is ſtill generally the caſe. I have heard, however, from

ſome of them, that they do not find it a matter ſo eaſy to control their young people, as it formerly was.

I wiſh to ſave myſelf the pain of deſcribing the lamentable effects which happen to ſome perſons, from their being too ready to leave their loom, or their work-ſhop, to meet in companies, or in clubs, in the ale-houſes. This propenſity, however, is not peculiar to Perth. It is as much, or perhaps more to be complained of in other places, where the effects alſo have been more viſible.

§ 13. *Population.*

The firſt full year's liſt, now extant, of marriages, baptiſms, and burials, in Perth, is for the year 1562. The numbers are,

Marriages——70
Baptiſms——225
Burials——182

The number of burials, multiplied by 31, makes the number of the inhabitants at that time, to have been 5642.

The number of baptiſms, multiplied by 27, makes the number of inhabitants to have been 6075.

With regard to the number of marriages, it is to be obſerved, that the manners of the people, till long after the reformation of religion, were exceedingly licentious. The Kirk Seſſion was abundantly ſevere. Its minutes, now extant, commence in May 1577; and it appears, that from that date, to October 7th, 1577, which was the day of the annual election of elders and deacons, 24 perſons had been puniſhed for having children otherwiſe than by lawful marriage. And from October 7th, 1577, to October 6th, 1578, there were 67 ſuch perſons puniſhed.

I do not give much credit to the accuracy of the old liſts of marriages, baptiſms, and burials. Sometimes there are no

perſons mentioned for months, and ſometimes for whole years. I have known many applications made for extracts from the regiſters, kept prior to the laſt 20 years, and often what was ſought for, could not be found, which occaſioned trouble and loſs to ſome families.

For ſome years paſt, a regulation has taken place, which has a good effect. Not only the eſtabliſhed miniſters, but alſo ſome of the diſſenting miniſters, from a regard to the intereſt of families, have agreed to require from the parent, who preſents a child for baptiſm, a line from the keeper of the regiſters, certifying that the birth of the child has been marked.

Such a regiſter of burials as could be depended upon as to accuracy of numbers, only began to be kept February 7th, 1792. In the following ſtatement, therefore, the number of burials can only be given from that period.

In the report ſent to Dr Webſter, in the year 1755, the number of the inhabitants was reckoned to be 9019. The great increaſe of inhabitants ſince that time, will appear from the following ſtatement.

Marriages in the Following Years.

1784 ——— 222
1785 ——— 166
1786 ——— 174
1787 ——— 180
1788 ——— 164
1789 ——— 160
1790 ——— 162
1791 ——— 176
1792 ——— 178
1793 ——— 150
1794 ——— 166

It

It is to be remarked, that many of the boys who come as apprentices from different parts of the country, leave the town as soon as they have learned their trade.

Alſo many other young men, whoſe parents are reſiding in the town, go to ſeek their fortune elſewhere in the kingdom, or in foreign parts. The females in general remain, and there are always more unmarried women than batchelors.

Baptiſms in the Following Years.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1784	241	171	412
1785	226	238	464
1786	269	217	486
1787	279	237	536
1788	292	238	530
1789	287	227	514
1790	281	258	539
1791	305	264	569
1792	301	273	574
1793	297	274	571
1794	253	269	522

For the reaſon mentioned in the laſt remark I made upon the marriages, I do not think that any accurate calculation of the number of inhabitants can be made in multiplying the number of baptiſms by 27.

Burials in the Following Years.

From the 7th of February, to the end of December, 1792, died 103 men; 112 women; 173 boys; 174 girls; 28 ſtill born. Total 590.

In the year 1793, died 114 men; 152 women; 181 boys; 147 girls; 47 ſtill born. Total 641.

In

In the year 1794, died 94 men; 141 women; 129 boys; 121 girls; 34 ſtill born. Total 519.

I reckon the burials in the year 1793, to be the average number. Therefore, 641, multiply by 31, makes the number of inhabitants in the town and pariſh of Perth, to be 19,871; which falls ſhort of the calculation made of the number of inhabitants made in Dundee, 4139.

Formerly, while the town was ſurrounded with high walls and towers, and water trenches, the air of it might not be very healthful. But it has now for many years been laid quite open. There are new ſtreets both to the north and ſouth, by which a free air circulates through the town.

There are no diſeaſes peculiar to the pariſh of Perth; and the town enjoys this ſingularity, that none of its inhabitants are ſeized with the ague, of which the natural cauſe may be, that the town is well ſheltered from the eaſt wind by the oppoſite hill of Kinnoul.

I am informed that the aged rector of the grammar ſchool, Mr Alexander Watſon, who has for ſome years retired from buſineſs, has frequently ſaid, that during the 40 years in which he taught the ſchool, there were ſome of the ſcholars who died by accidents, but only two by diſeaſe.

§ 14. *Poor.*

The poor are very numerous. Some of the heritors maintain any who may be upon their eſtates. The great reſort of the poor, from all parts of the country, is to Perth. Some of them make a ſhift, perhaps for 3 years, to maintain themſelves, and then when they fall into diſtreſs, or their cart horſes die by which they gained their daily bread, they apply to the public for relief.

The inhabitants in general, are charitably diſpoſed. Beſides

ſides what they give in private to diſtreſſed perſons or families they often make large voluntary contributions.

The permanent funds for the maintainance of the poor are what is given by the Guildrey; by the ſeveral incorporations; by the friendly ſocieties, which are now on a ſure footing than formerly; by the hoſpital, the yearly revenue of which, is about L. 320, by the Eſtabliſhed Kirk Seſſion, the yearly funds of which, chiefly ariſing from what is collected at the doors of the churches, amount to about L. 300.

The different kinds of the diſſenters, eſpecially the independants, do much for their own poor. And the Magiſtrates yearly aſſeſs the inhabitants to the amount of about L. 300; which, however, is not ſufficient to maintain the begging poor, as many of them are ſtill to be ſeen in the ſtreets, and at the doors of houſes.

Provoſt Alexander Simpſon, in the year 1778, mortified L. 100 to the 2 Eſtabliſhed Miniſters and their aſſiſtant, on condition that the yearly intereſt of it ſhould by them be diſtributed to poor perſons. And in the year 1780, Mrs Smythe of London, mortified L. 100 to the two Eſtabliſhed Miniſters, for charitable purpoſes, the yearly intereſt of which they diſtribute to the poor.

§ 15. *Civil Hiſtory.*

It is not my intention in this Statiſtical Account, to enter into the particulars of the civil hiſtory of Perth, I refer to all the hiſtories of Scotland which have been publiſhed, in which many occurrences relating to Perth, are taken notice of. It was long reckoned the capital city of Scotland, and now holds priority next to Edinburgh. In ſeveral of the public writs, eſpecially in the time of King James VI. it is called the city of Perth, and ſtill bears the title.

The

The Parliament houſe at Perth ſtill remains, and is converted, as well as it poſſibly could, into dwelling houſes. There remain alſo the ancient houſes of many of the nobility; which are now, in a manner, alſo moderniſed; ſuch as the houſes of the Biſhop of Dunkeld, Earl of Errol, and Earl of Athole. The Earl of Gowrie's houſe, which was originally built by the Counteſs of Huntly, about the year 1520, remains: but is not likely to remain much longer. In the year 1746, it was given by the magiſtrates to William Duke of Cumberland, who ſold it to government for the purpoſe of containing barracks for a company of artillery. It is now, I am told, to be immediately taken down; and new barracks are to be erected fit to contain not only a company of artillery, but alſo a full regiment of foot.

The citadel, which Oliver Cromwell built in the ſouth Inch, was demoliſhed after the Reſtoration. Very ſoon there will not remain the ſmalleſt veſtige of the entrenchments.

The laſt of the large towers upon the town wall, called the Spey tower, was taken down about 30 years ago. There is yet a ſmall round tower on a remaining part of the wall, which is called the Monk's tower, and where probably the Monks who had been diſorderly, were ſometimes confined, in order to do pennance. In the laſt century, the Earl of Kinnoul who was chancellor of Scotland, and poſſeſſed Gowrie's houſe and garden, built the uppermoſt room of this tower, to be a ſummer houſe.

The revenue of the town is conſiderable, and well managed. The people are ambitious of ſecuring their money in the funds of the public revenue, which may ſometimes tempt the managers to contract more debt in the execution of their ſchemes, than they might otherwiſe do. Nearly about one half of the members of the town council are deputed by the trades.

The late Earl of Kinnoul exerted himſelf in obtaining a new bridge to be erected over the Tay, in 1766. Beſides what was given by individuals, and by different ſocieties in the town, L. 2000 was given from the public revenue. The magiſtrates have agreed to join with the county in erecting a bridewell; but the execution of this ſcheme is neceſſarily delayed till the times ſhall be more peaceable.

§ 16. *Eccleſiaſtical State.*

The pariſh church of Perth is a large and ancient building, and bears a reſemblance to the form of a croſs. It is now divided into what are called the eaſt, middle, and weſt churches. The eaſt church is the moſt modern part of the building. It contains what was formerly called the choir, and was built about the year 1400, after the old choir had been taken down. It is in the beſt ſtile of Gothic architecture, and was lately furniſhed, in a very elegant manner, with ſeats and galleries.

The pariſh church, which had been dedicated to St John Baptiſt, the manſe which belonged to it, and another houſe in Perth, with the whole tithes of the pariſh, were given by Malcolm Canmore, and confirmed by his ſons Alexander I. and David I. to the abbey of Dumfermling. The abbot and Monks received the rectory tithes, and employed a vicar to officiate at Perth.

At the reformation of religion, the property of the abbeys, and of other ſuch religious houſes, reverted to the crown.

King James VI. in 1589, at the time of his marriage with Ann of Denmark, conferred on her the lands and other property of the abbey of Dumfermling. This deed was confirmed by Acts of Parliament, in 1593; but it was enacted that ſhe ſhould allow for the officiating clergy, and for ſome other purpoſes ſpecified, one third of the benefices of thoſe churches which

which had belonged to the abbey. Her tackſman of the tithes of Perth, was John Roſs, laird of Craigie. He paid a third part for the purpoſes enacted, and tranſmitted the overplus to the Queen's Majeſty. The Queen, however, ſoon after the year 1600, gave up her right to the tithes of Perth, and the town council became patrons of the pariſh.

From the year 1560, to the year 1595, there was only one miniſter in Perth. From 1595 to 1716, there were always two miniſters, and only one parochial church. In the year 1716, the weſt part of the building, which had been ſeparated from the reſt, by a partition wall, was ordered to be ſeated, and a third miniſter was called by the magiſtrates.

The town continued from that time to have 3 miniſters, till the year 1740; in which year, one of the 3 miniſters, was along with ſome other brethren depoſed by the General Aſſembly, for following what were denominated diviſive courſes. The reſolution of paſſing ſuch a ſentence had been carried by the caſting vote of the Moderator of the Aſſembly. The brethren who had been depoſed, though they were not allowed to preach in the parochial churches, did not ceaſe from the exerciſe of their miniſtry, but began what is called the party of Seceders in Scotland, and very ſoon went farther in their oppoſition to the church, than they at firſt intended. The depoſed miniſter in Perth, was much beloved by the people. A great number of the pariſhioners attached themſelves to him, and left the eſtabliſhed church, ſo that the town council thought there was no longer any need of a third miniſter.

The population of the town, however, continued to increaſe. In 1771, the choir of the old building was converted into a ſeparate church, and an ordained aſſiſtant was provided for the two miniſters. But the remedy was not ſufficient,

as there was but a ſmall part of the area of the choir which had not before been occupied with ſeats.

It could not be expected that the public funds of the town were to keep pace with the increaſe of inhabitants, ſo as to afford the number of churches neceſſary. Attempts were made from time to time, to obtain a chapel of eaſe, the remedy uſual in other towns; but they did not ſucceed. Only in the year 1788, a chapel was built by ſubſcription for the Highlanders in Perth, and a miniſter provided who ſhould preach to them in the Gaelic Language.

The following is a liſt of the ſeveral churches and religious congregations in Perth.

The people of the eſtabliſhed church, who are above two thirds of the inhabitants, have 3 churches, which altogether contain about 2300 perſons. They have 2 miniſters, and an ordained aſſiſtant. The town council alſo have provided an aſſiſtant for the ſenior miniſter.

The rectory tithes uſually paid, are divided betwixt the 2 miniſters. Each of them has yearly from the heritors, 80 bolls oat-meal, and 70 bolls barley; alſo of vicarage tithes, L. 3 : 14 : 5$\frac{1}{3}$. The town council pay yearly, out of the ſeat rents, to each of the 2 miniſters, L. 21 : 5 : 6$\frac{2}{3}$; and have lately added, during their pleaſure, L. 20 more. The town council pay yearly, to the ordained aſſiſtant L. 100; and during their pleaſure to the aſſiſtant of the ſenior miniſter, L. 50 yearly.

The Gaelic chapel has one miniſter, whoſe yearly ſtipend is L. 50, out of the ſeat rents of the chapel.

There is a new chapel in Paul's ſtreet, which contains about 1000 people, who do not reckon themſelves diſſenters, but wiſh their chapel ſhould be received as a chapel of eaſe to the eſtabliſhed church. They have agreed to give to a miniſter who ſhall preach to them, L. 100 yearly.

The

The diſſenters of different kinds, are as follows:—

1. A ſmall congregation of the old Scots Epiſcopals, which has one miniſter.

2. An Engliſh Epiſcopal chapel, which has one miniſter. Several families from the country attend this chapel.

3. A ſmall ſociety of Cameronians, who affect to be called the old Scots Preſbyterians. They have no miniſter reſident among them.

4. A ſmall ſociety of Anabaptiſts. The principles they entertain here, are not very well known.

5. A congregation of Burgher Seceders, which has 2 miniſters. The people who attend, are chiefly inhabitants of the town. It ought to be obſerved, in juſtice to the ſenior Burgher miniſter, that as a brave old man and a chriſtian, he has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in oppoſing the introduction of French principles.

6. A congregation of Antiburgher Seceders, which has 2 miniſters. Many of the people, who attend in this congregation, come from the neighbouring pariſhes.

7. A congregation of what are called Relief people, which has 1 miniſter. Many of the people who attend in this congregation, are ſaid to come from the neighbouring pariſhes. A diſguſt having ariſen among ſome perſons in Perth, about the year 1786, on their having been refuſed a chapel of eaſe for their accomodation, they applied to the preſbytery of Relief, and a church was immediately built, and ſoon filled with people.

8. A ſmall ſociety of Balchriſty people, who are a ſpecies of Independants.

9. A pretty large church of that kind of Independants, who commonly are called Glaſſites, or Sandemonians. They are not like the Engliſh independants in the time of Oliver Cromwell,

well, but upon chriſtian principles, are loyal and peaceable ſubjects.

A gentleman in Dundee, ſome years ago, wrote to his correſpondent in Perth, that if it were agreeable, an Unitarian miniſter, who was then reſiding in Dundee, would come to Perth, to give a ſermon and an explanation of his principles. The Perth gentleman very properly replied, there were already too many religions in Perth, and he did not wiſh to ſee any more.

It may ſeem a matter of ſurpriſe, that the eſtabliſhed church at Perth, ſhould maintain its ground among ſo many diſſenters. I am told there is not a vacant ſeat to be let in the 3 churches; except, perhaps, ſome uſeleſs ſeats in the back part of the galleries. The number of communicants conſiderably exceeds the number of perſons for whom the churches are ſeated. And there are, beſides to be provided for, all the young perſons, and a great number of others who do not communicate. It is ſurely therefore of importance, even in a political view, that more houſes of worſhip, under the juriſdiction of the church, ſhould be provided.

I hope the falſe philoſophy, which, for above half a century, has prevailed much in France, and which was adopted by ſome writers in our own country, the effects of which, now appear, has made few or no converts in Perth. The people in Perth, have been accuſtomed to the evangelical doctrines explained in the particular ſtandards of our church, and they generally delight in them, as affording them the trueſt happineſs. It is obſervable, that in as far as the faith of a people alters from theſe ſalutary truths, there will enſue all manner of licentious conduct.

I have converſed with ſome, who evidently had been hurt by reading the viſionary and irreligious writings of Thomas Payne. One of hem told me, he thought no reply had been

made to theſe writings. When I told him many replies had been publiſhed, and in which the ſophiſtries of Payne had been detected, he ſaid, he had not money to purchaſe many books, but would willingly read theſe replies if he could get them eaſily. If it be the faſhion of the times, or has been the practice of ſome perſons, to put into the hands of the poor people books of a dangerous tendency, ſurely the friends of our religion, and of our civil conſtitution, ſhould endeavour to put into their hands, in as liberal a manner, books of a better kind.

§ 17. *Ancient Religious Houſes.*

I ſhall ſcarcely do any thing more than give a liſt of the monaſteries, churches, and chapels, in the town or ſuburbs, and in the pariſh of Perth. There were,

1. The Dominican or Blackfriars monaſtery, founded by Alexander II. in 1231.

2. The Carmelite or Whitefriars monaſtery, in the neighbourhood of the town, at Tullilum, which was founded ſome time during the reign of Alexander III.

3. The Charter houſe, or Carthuſian monaſtery, founded in 1429, by King James I. and his Queen. This King was murdered in the Blackfriars monaſtery at Perth, and was interred in the church of the Carthuſian monaſtery; where his Queen alſo afterwards was interred, and Queen Margaret, mother of James V.

4. The Franciſcan or Grayfriars monaſtery, founded by Lord Oliphant, in 1460.

Beſides, the pariſh church of St John Baptiſt, and the churches which made a part of the buildings of thoſe 4 monaſteries, there were a number of chapels, ſome of which had hoſpitals for the poor and ſick, and ſmall nunneries annexed to them.

1. Our

1. Our Lady's chapel which adjoined the old bridge, and was renewed after the former one had been overthrown along with the bridge, in the year 1210.

2. St Laurence chapel, at the caſtle gavel, the property of which, was given to the Dominican monaſtery at Perth, by King Robert III. in 1405, that the Friars there might pray for the ſoul of his mother Eliſabeth More, "who was reſting "in the church of the predicatory Friars of Perth."

3. The chapel of St Ann, mother of the Virgin Mary, ſituated at the ſouth ſide of the church-yard. An hoſpital was annexed to this chapel.

4. St James's chapel, adjoining to the ſouth ſide of the church.

5. The ſmall chapel of Allareit or Loretta.

6. St Paul's chapel.

7. St Katharine's chapel, to which was annexed an hoſpital for a certain number of old men.

8. St Magdalen's chapel, with a nunnery annexed. The property of it was given to the Carthuſian monaſtery.

9. The chapel of St Leonard the abbot. It had an hoſpital and nunnery annexed. Lady Elizabeth Dunbar, who had been privately married to that unfortunate Prince David Duke of Rothſay, and whom he was afterwards obliged to reject, became prioreſs of this nunnery, in the year 1411. The chapel with its pertinents, was afterwards given to the Carthuſian monaſtery.

All theſe churches and chapels were filled with altars conſecrated to various ſaints, and each of the altars had one officiating chaplain, or more, when more than one ſaint was honoured at the ſame altar; and generally, each of theſe chaplains had about L. 10 in the year.

In the archives of the pariſh church of Perth, are the chartulary, an accompt-book which the prior kept for ſome years previous

previous to the Reformation, and 162 writs or charters which belonged to the Dominican monaſtery; 20 charters which belonged to the Carmelites or Whitefriars; 92 charters which belonged to the Carthuſians; 207 charters which belonged to the chapels and altars.

The acts and canons of the national councils were depoſited in the Dominican monaſtery at Perth, where theſe councils ordinarily aſſembled. But they were carried off or deſtroyed at the Reformation.

It was at Perth that the reformed religion was firſt publicly avowed. Mr John Knox, attended by many of the chief nobility of the kingdom, preached a ſermon in the pariſh church of Perth, againſt idolatry, Thurſday, May 11th, 1559. After the ſermon, one of the prieſts having given a trifling provocation, a number of the people broke down all the altars and images, in the pariſh church, and then proceeded to the entire demolition of the monaſteries. No veſtiges of the monaſteries and chapels are now to be ſeen. Ever ſince that remarkable æra, a weekly ſermon has been preached at Perth, on the Thurſday forenoon.

Mr Henry Adamſon, in his metrical hiſtory, ſays, that "all the churches and chapels had lofty ſpires." The only ſpire now remaining, is that of the pariſh church. However neceſſary it might have been reckoned to deſtroy the cells of the monaſteries, their churches, if they had been left ſtanding, would now have been found very uſeful.

The records of the reformed church have been better kept at Perth, than in moſt other places. Regiſters of the tranſactions of the Kirk Seſſion, with ſome few interruptions, are extant from the year 1577. The regiſters of the preſbytery of Perth, are extant from the year 1618. And the regiſters of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, are extant from the year 1638.

§ 18. *Various Particulars.*

Having enlarged ſo much on the preceding heads, I muſt be more brief in ſome other articles.

Perth is the county town where the Sheriff-court meets. The Lords of Juſticiary hold a court here twice in the year, when they go on their circuits. The Provoſts were ſheriffs within the town, ſince the time of King Robert III. They bear alſo the office of coroner, which office is not much exerciſed in Scotland.

The inhabitants of Perth, by a decreet in 1602, enjoy ſome diſtinguiſhing privileges. One of which is, that they are the only perſons, who, in the courſe of trade, are exempted from paying what is called, "the ſhore ſilver at Dundee."

The Perth bank has ſubſiſted for many years; and there is alſo in Perth a branch of the bank of Scotland.

The grammar ſchool is in great repute. It has a rector and 2 inferior maſters. The academy for mathematics, aſtronomy, and the ſeveral parts of education which are proper to fit young men for buſineſs, is well attended by ſtudents, even from ſome diſtant countries, and is in a flouriſhing ſtate. It has a rector, an aſſiſtant, a French maſter, and a drawing maſter.

A Literary and Antiquarian Society was founded at Perth, December 16th, 1784. A conſiderable collection has been made of books, original eſſays, ancient manuſcripts, coins, medals, ſubjects of natural hiſtory, and other materials ſuitable to the deſign of the inſtitution. But the ſociety has not yet publiſhed any volumes of its tranſactions.

There is alſo a general library, which continues to be well furniſhed with books, chiefly in the line of hiſtory.

About 200 of the moſt reſpectable inhabitants of the town, are aſſociated as Volunteers, to bear a part in the defence of our

our conſtitution, and the maintenance of peace and good order.

The town has been much enlarged of late years, and new ſtreets, in which are exeellent houſes, have been opened in all quarters. If the nation ſhould proſper, theſe will probably form at laſt a new town, on the ground of the Black-friars.

NUMBER XX

PARISH OF KINNOUL.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr LEWIS DUNBAR.

Name.

THE name ſeems to have been the ſame in ancient and modern times, and is probably of Gaelic origin. Some who underſtand the Gaelic language are of opinion, that the etymology of the name *Kinnoul*, in ancient writing Kynnoule, is Ceann-Juil. Ceann ſignifies, head or end, in a literal, and in a more general acceptation, *Principal* or *Chief:* alſo, *Terminating Point*. *Jul* of which *Juil* is the genetive caſe, ſignifies a view or proſpect, in alluſion, either to the extenſive proſpect which the ſituation of the hill of Kinnoul commands, or the great diſtance at which it may be ſeen by a traveller; or it may refer to the termination, or rather interruption of that range of hills called the Sidley hills, riſing to the ſouthward of Forfar in Angus, and falling from their height, as they ſtretch in a weſterly courſe along the northern edge of the Carſe of Gowrie, till they riſe again ſuddenly in the hill of Kinnoul, which marks the weſtern extremity of the Colonade. But the etymology of names is generally mat-

ter

ter of mere conjecture. From this place the title of the noble and antient family of Kinnoul derives its origin.

Situation, &c.—This pariſh is ſituated in the Preſbytery and County of Perth, and within the Synod of Perth and Stirling. It is of a very irregular form, being interſected in different directions, for 3 or 4 miles, by the adjoining pariſhes of Scone, St Martin's, and Kinfauns.

That part of the pariſh which lies adjacent to the church and manſe, is beautifully ſituated, on the eaſt ſide of the river Tay, directly oppoſite to Perth, and is between a mile and a half and 2 miles ſquare; bounded on the north and northeaſt, by the pariſh of Scone; on the ſoutheaſt and ſouth, by the pariſh of Kinfauns; and on the weſt and ſouthweſt, by the river Tay. The disjoined diſtricts of the pariſh will be beſt known, by examining Stobie's map of Perthſhire, under the names, Inchyra, Balthayock, Murrays-hall, and Balbeiggie.

Soil, Culture, &c.—The ſoil of this pariſh is various. Near the Tay, in ſome places, it is a ſtrong clay, (particularly at Inchyra), in ſome light and gravelly, and in others a good loam, and ſome part of it has a tilly bottom. Every ſort of ſoil has been greatly improved of late; many fields, which formerly were barren and uncultivated, are now, by proper culture and management, producing rich crops of all kinds of grain. The rapid progreſs of improvement here, as in moſt parts of the country, within the laſt 20 or 30 years, has raiſed the value of land amazingly; and were ſome of the preſent leaſes expired, the rent of ſome farms would be more than doubled. The tops of the hills and ſuch grounds as were reckoned unfit for cultivation, are now covered with thriving plantations; ſo that there is not much waſte ground in the pariſh. The art of huſbandry is now too well underſtood,

stood, to preserve the absurd distinction of out-field and in-field, which formerly prevailed. On the farms which lie near to Perth, no strict rotation of crops has been observed; having the command of lime and other manure, by an easy carriage from Perth and Bridge-end, the farmers can keep their ground in good heart without it; but it would certainly be better, were they to observe a regular rotation, as the ground would thereby be kept in proper order at a smaller expence; and it would contribute greatly to their advantage, if more attention was paid in cutting down thistles, and other weeds around their fields, before they shed their seed. There is not much summer fallow used here; but the end of a fallow is in a good measure attained by the horse-hoeing of turnip and potatoes, which, when done with attention, effectually destroys the annual weeds, and cleans the ground. A great deal more grain is raised in the parish, than would serve the inhabitants; and it is generally of an excellent quality, and brings a good price in the market. The prices of grain vary according to circumstances, and the state of the preceding crops. The seed time commences commonly in March, and closes with May. Wheat is sown from the middle of September, to the end of October. The harvest generally begins about the end of August, or the beginning of September. The present medium rent of land, may be about L. 1 : 8 per acre; a few acres near to the church of Kinnoul, are let at L. 5; others at L. 3 : 3 per acre. Such is the value of land in this neighbourhood, that 5 acres, which pay of feu-duty and public burdens, about L. 14 *per annum;* were sold about 9 years ago, for L. 560. The general contents of the parish are about 2906 Scots acres; of which 2214 are arable and pasture lands, a small proportion excepted. The remaining 692 acres are planted chiefly with Scotch fir; intermixed with larixes, beech, and other forest trees. Large quantities

of potatoes are planted by ſome farmers, which are ſold, when growing, in ſmall lots, to tradeſmen and labourers, in Perth and Bridge-end, and uſually bring from L. 8, to L. 12 per acre. Few or no ſheep have been kept in the pariſh, ſince the hills were planted, and the practice commenced of laying down ſo much ground with clover, and other green crops. The Engliſh plough is generally uſed. It is drawn by a pair of horſes, and managed by one man without a driver. All other implements of huſbandry have of late been greatly improved. The valued rent of the pariſh, is L. 4775 : 18 : 6, Scots. The real rent may be at preſent about L. 3017 : 13 : 6, including L. 520 for ſalmon fiſhings.

A conſiderable part of the pariſh is incloſed with hedges of hawthorn, or beech, which makes a fine warm fence, as it does not ſhed its leaves in the winter; ſome part with ſtone fences.

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—The air is generally pure and ſalubrious; although in winter, the hoar froſts are ſometimes very ſevere near to the river. The inhabitants are afflicted with no peculiar diſeaſes; nor are epidemical infections either common or remarkably fatal. Fevers are rare, and are commonly of the ſlow and nervous kind, and chiefly among the lower claſs. Rheumatic and aſthmatic complaints are the moſt prevalent, and eſpecially among the aged of the poorer ſort, which is probably owing in a great meaſure to ſcarcity of fuel, and to cold lodging. The ſamll-pox is the moſt fatal diſeaſe among children, as the practice of inoculation has not even yet become general; at times too, the meaſles and hooping cough carry off many infants, when thoſe diſeaſes prevail in the neighbourhood. But the people in general, enjoy good health, and many of them live to old age, though there are few inſtances among them of remarkable longevity.

One

One man died a few years ago, above 100; and 6 are now alive, who are above 80. The ague, which was very common about 30 years ago, is now ſcarcely heard of. But in places where this diſorder was moſt prevalent, and eſpecially in the Carſe of Gowrie, it is obſerved that young people are now more liable to conſumptions than formerly. The jaundice alſo has of late become a more frequent diſeaſe.

Rivers, Salmon Fiſhing, &c.—There are no rivers which run through this pariſh; the Tay, which waſhes its weſtern borders, being rather to be conſidered as its boundary, than as making any part of it, excepting in one ſmall ſpot oppoſite to the church, where this noble river divides itſelf into 2 parts, and forms a ſmall iſland; one half of which is in this pariſh, and the other in the pariſh of Perth. That branch of the river which is in this pariſh, is called the Willow-gate. But that which is next to Perth is the courſe which veſſels of burden uſually hold, when going to Perth or Bridge-end; but boats and ſmall ſloops often come up the Willow-gate, as being a ſhorter paſſage. Veſſels from 90 to 100 tons burthen, can eaſily make the ſhore of Bridge-end in ſpring-tides; and when larger veſſels are employed, part of their cargoes are taken out (about 2 or 3 miles below Perth) and put into boats, which are uſed as lighters, from Perth or Bridge-end. It is generally thought, that the Tay diſcharges more freſh water into the ſea, than any other river in great Britain. The Tay abounds with excellent ſalmon, and fine trouts of different kinds, which are highly flavoured, and weigh from 2 to 6 pounds. The greater part of the ſalmon fiſhings on the Tay, are rented by a company in Perth, who employ a vaſt number of boats and fiſhermen. They ſeldom expoſe their fiſh to ſale in Scotland, excepting at Perth; where the price of ſalmon in the ſpring is ſometimes 1s, and ſometimes 9d per lib.;

and

and in the ſummer months, they are never ſold below 5d per lib. Since the practice of packing ſalmon in ice has prevailed, they are ſent freſh to the London market in ſmacks, during the whole fiſhing ſeaſon, which commences on 11th December, and cloſes on the 26th of Auguſt following. Two large ice houſes for this purpoſe, were built ſome years ago on the north ſide of the church of Kinnoul: all the trouts which are caught in the nets, are the property of the fiſhermen. The fiſhings belonging to this pariſh are rented at L. 520 *per annum*. A very particular account of this valuable branch of trade having been already publiſhed from other pariſhes in the neighbourhood, it would be improper to extend this article farther.

Nurſery, &c.—About the year 1767, a nurſery was begun in this pariſh, by Mr James Dickſon from Haſſendeanburn, near Hawick. He was ſoon after ſucceeded by his brother Mr William Dickſon, and his preſent partner Mr James Brown, by whom it has been conducted for upwards of 20 years, on a very extenſive ſcale, and with that degree of ſucceſs, to which their induſtry and taſte are ſo juſtly entitled. This nurſery contains between 30 and 40 acres of ground, on the eaſt bank of the Tay, directly oppoſite to Perth; for the cultivation of which the number of hands varies, according to the exigencies of the ſeaſon; but at an average, more than 40 find conſtant employment. The ſoil and expoſure of theſe grounds, are both remarkably fitted for rearing plants of ſuch a vigorous and hardy nature, as are ſuitable not only to the ſheltered, but to the expoſed ſituations, with which the varied face of the country abounds. This nurſery contains all kinds of fruit, and foreſt trees, evergreen and flowering ſhrubs, flower roots and plants, which are naturalized to the climate. The proprietors have

always been particularly careful in the ſelection and proof of the various kinds of fruit-trees, and in conſequence of this, the demand has been very extenſive. On the nurſery grounds, (ſouth from the church of Kinnoul,) they have lately erected a large well conſtructed green-houſe, in which there is not only a numerous, but a rich collection of exotic-plants. And at their ſhop in Perth, they keep a complete aſſortment of all kinds of garden, graſs, tree, and flower-ſeeds. Theſe various articles, find a ready market, not only in the rich adjacent country, but in the more remote parts of Scotland. They are even frequently ſent to England and Ireland; for which, the many regular opportunities of water-carriage from Perth, particularly to London, and other places in ſouth Britain, give this nurſery great advantages. The happy effects of the eſtabliſhment of ſuch a branch of trade, are not confined to the actual operators, but are conſpicuous on the face of the whole ſurrounding country. The plants and trees in our gardens and orchards, have been not only increaſed in number, but improved in quality. Numerous and extenſive plantations have been formed, and are all thriving ſo well, that an example productive of ſo much ornament and utility to the country, is every year finding many imitators.

Bridge-end, and Bridge of Perth.—The village of bridge-end, derives its name from its ſituation, being placed at the eaſt end of the bridge of Perth.

The old bridge over the Tay, at this place, having been carried away by a great flood in the river, in the year 1621, the communication between Kinnoul and Perth, was afterwards carried on by means of ferry-boats, which were always attended with conſiderable inconvenience and expence; and frequently with great danger. No fewer than 30 boats, and as many boat-men, were employed on this ferry, as it was one

one of the moſt frequented paſſes in Scotland. Some of theſe boats were occaſionally employed as lighters, for veſſels in the river. In this ſtate, things continued until 1765, when a ſubſcription for a new bridge was opened, chiefly by the patronage of the late Earl of Kinnoul, to whoſe patriotic exertions, it is well known, the preſent bridge over the Tay at Perth, owed its exiſtence. It was reared under his auſpices; he pledged a conſiderable part of his private fortune, to carry on the work; and it will remain a laſting monument, to the honour of that great and worthy nobleman. The ſubſcription ſoon amounted to L. 11,298: 17: 6, of which government furniſhed no leſs a ſum than L. 4000.

The foundation ſtone was laid on the 13th September 1766, by its principal promoter, the Earl of Kinnoul, in preſence of the ſheriff-depute of the county, the Provoſt and Magiſtrates of Perth, and ſeveral other gentlemen, amidſt the applauſes of thouſands of ſpectators. The bridge was compleated, and the laſt of the workmen paid off, 13th of November 1771. The Earl of Errol's coach was the firſt that paſſed along the bridge, in the winter between 1770 and 1771. The plan was drawn by Mr Smeaton architect, and the work executed according to his orders, by Meſſrs Guyn, Morton, and Jamieſon. The bridge conſiſts of 10 arches, one of which is a land arch. The clear water way, is 589 feet 9 inches. The extent of all the arches, 730.9. The wing walls, 176. So that the total length of the bridge, is 906 feet 9 inches; and to the credit of the architect and undertakers, it has remained hitherto firm and unſhaken. The utility of this bridge is not confined to Perth and its neighbourhood, but extends to the country at large; as all are more or leſs concerned in an eaſy and ſafe communication, at ſo centrical a ſituation, between the northern and ſouthern parts of Scotland. Several attempts were made at different periods, to rebuild the bridge at Perth, but all theſe attempts

were

were deſerted, probably from the want of a proper fund to render them effectual. The whole expence of the bridge, was L. 26,446: 12: 3.

Before the new bridge was built, Bridge-end was a poor paltry village, conſiſting of a few houſes, chiefly for the accommodation of the boatmen and their families. The houſes were low built, ill-lighted, and covered with ſtraw-thatch; but of late, a better ſtyle of building has prevailed, and a great addition has been made to the village. Within the laſt 7 years, no leſs than 31 new houſes have been built, which are commodious and well lighted; which will cheriſh a ſpirit of cleanlineſs, and contribute materially to the health of the inhabitants. Some of the houſes lately built, are rented at L. 50, and none of them below L. 9 or L. 10 *per annum*. There are 98 houſes in the village, and the buildings are ſtill going on; and perhaps the time is not far diſtant, when Bridge-end will be an extenſive, populous, and reſpectable village. Some gentlemen of conſiderable landed property reſide in it; and were ſome ſpirited manufacturers eſtabliſhed there, they would have the beſt opportunity of purchaſing linen yarn and cloth, going to market, from the Carſe of Gowrie, Coupar of Angus, and the Stormount, as the turnpike roads from theſe diſtricts, all meet in Bridge-end. The Earl of Kinnoul, is ſuperior of the whole village; and by his Lordſhip's charter, for the baronies of Kinnoul and Pitcullen, he is entitled "to "hold a weekly market every Thurſday, and 4 free fairs in "the year; 1 on the 15th of May; the 2d on the 12th of "June; the 3d on the 5th of July; and the laſt on the 7th of "October. By ſaid charter, alſo the village of Bridge-end, "is to be called the burgh of Kinnoul: and the fairs to be "held there, or in any other town or place within the rega-"lity; with power to erect and build, free ſea-ports, harbours, "and ſhores, for receiving ſhips, boats, and other veſſels,

"within the bounds of the ſaid lands of Kinnoul and Pitcul-"len, or any part thereof; with the privilege of paſſage "cobles and boats, from the burgh of Kinnoul, and from "the lands of Kinnoul and Pitcullen, or any part thereof "upon the water of Tay." The beautiful villas, built on the riſing ground, immediately above Bridge-end, are a conſiderable ornament to the place and neighbourhood.

Population.—The population of this pariſh, is greatly encreaſed within the laſt 8 or 10 years, although ſome ſmall crofts have been conjoined, and ſeveral cottage-houſes deſerted, which ſhould naturally have diminiſhed the population. This increaſe of inhabitants is not owing to any manufactures eſtabliſhed in the pariſh, for there are none; but it is chiefly to be aſcribed, to the toll being taken off the bridge of Perth; a circumſtance which has induced many tradeſmen and others, to purchaſe ground, and build houſes in the village of Bridge-end, who would not otherwiſe have thought of it; and there is a great probability, that the pariſh will ſtill increaſe, as the village of Bridge-end, from its ſituation, promiſes in time, to become conſiderable.

The number of ſouls according to the return made to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 1163

In January 1795, the number of ſouls was 1465

Of Males 740 Females 725

Of theſe under 10 years of age,—341
Above 10 and under 20,—284
Above 20 and under 40,—416
Above 40 and under 60,—323
Above 60 and under 80,—95
Above —— —— 80,—6

Total 1465

Increaſe 302

Of

Of Presbyterian dissenters, of various denominations	190	Wheels-wrights	2
Of Episcopalians	18	Carters	6
Families of Quakers	2	Sailors 3. Boatmen 3	6
Clergyman	1	Bakers	10
Schoolmasters	2	Butchers	6
Weavers and their apprentices	57	Nursery men and gardeners	14
Masons	18	Sadlers	3
Wrights	18	Shop-keepers or merchants	6
Inn-keepers	16	Coopers	2
Shoemakers	17	Boat-carpenters	2
Taylors	15	Barbers	2
Smiths	5	Chelsea-pensioners	2
		Dyers	2
		Excise-officer	1

Abstract for Six Years preceding January 1795, of Baptisms and Marriages.

Baptisms $\frac{260}{6} = 43\frac{1}{3}$ yearly.

Marriages for the same Number of Years.

1784 —— 11
85 —— 12
91 —— 14
92 —— 21
93 —— 12
94 —— 13

Average $13\frac{5}{6}$ yearly.

There can no account be given of the number of deaths, as there is no register of burials kept here; nor would it convey

very satisfactory information, if there were; because many families continue to bury here, though they no longer reside in the parish; while others who do reside, bury elsewhere.

Church of Kinnoul, Manse and Stipend.—Sir Robert Erskine, Lord of Erskine, and great Chamberlain of Scotland, in the reign of David Bruce, gave in pure alms to the monastery of Cambuskenneth, the patronage of the church of Kinnoul, with some lands lying in Strathern. He was proprietor of the barony of Kinnoul, in which he was succeeded by Sir Nichol Erskine his second son. It was usual for the abbeys or monastries, to retain the rectory tithes of the churches which were gifted to them, and to maintain an officiating vicar out of the small tithes; but this was not the case, with respect to the church of Kinnoul. The monastery always presented a rector or parson, who, in consequence, received the rectory tithes, or at least, a part of them, as he could agree with the monastery.

The Patron Saint of the Church of Kinnoul, was St Constantine.

"January 4th 1518—19, John Watson, burgess of Edin-"burgh, sold to his beloved cousin, Mr James Davidson, "Chaplain of the altar of St Ninian, within the parish church "of St Constantine, the martyr of Kinnoul, a house and "garden in Perth."

N. B. Constantine III. King of Scotland, became a Monk among the Culdees at St Andrews. He is denominated Monk and Martyr in the Scottish calendar, and his aniversary was celebrated on the 11th day of February.

Parsons or Rectors of Kinnoul, before the Reformation.

1. Mr James Boswille, some short time before the year 1500, was

was parson of Kinnoul, he was a younger son of David Boswille of Balmuto, in Fife.

2. Mr Walter Drummond, in the year 1500, was Dean of Dumblane, Parson of Kinnoul, Clerk of the Registers and Council of Scotland. He was second son of Sir Malcolm Drummond of Cargill, and brother of John, the first Lord Drummond. In the time of the first Viscount of Strathallan, who wrote the history of the Drummonds, there was a chamber in the castle of Drummond, called from him, "Walter's "chamber." He was the ancestor of the Drummonds of Deanstown.

3. Mr John Drummond, was son of the said Mr Walter. He succeeded him in the Deanry of Dumblane, and in the parsonage of Kinnoul. By order of his uncle, the first Lord Drummond, he married, in the year 1514, in the church of Kinnoul, Margaret Tudor, widow of King James IV. to Archibald Douglas, commonly called the great Earl of Angus. The daughter of this marriage, was the Countess of Lennox, mother of Henry Lord Darnly. The Earl of Angus, was a grandson of Lord Drummond.

4. Mr James Heriot, in the year 1519, was rector of Kinnoul, he was at the same time, canon of Ross, and official in Lothian, for the Archbishop of St Andrews.

N. B. I have not met with, or been informed of any more of the Popish parsons of Kinnoul.

Parsons after the Reformation.—Mr William Rynd, December 20th, 1560, was appointed by the General Assembly minister of Kinnoul. He was about the same time, chosen rector of the grammar school of Perth; and continued in both offices, till his death, February 20th, 1610. Many articles of his public conduct are recorded in the Ecclesiastical Histories of Scotland.

Mr

Mr Ninian Drummond, about 1610, was tranſlated from ſome other pariſh, and admitted miniſter of Kinnoul. He was grandſon of the firſt Lord Drummond, and 5th ſon of Henry Drummond of Riccarton. His two immediately elder brothers were Papiſts, and, enjoying offices under the Pope, reſided in foreign parts. His wife was Margaret Crighton, daughter to the laird of Lugtown. His ſecond ſon, Mr Edward Drummond, having been for ſome years with his Popiſh relations in Avignon, and in Rome, was prevailed upon to profeſs the Popiſh religion. But he returned to his own country in 1628, and in the year thereafter renounced the errors of Popery, and became a Proteſtant miniſter. Mr Ninian Drummond, was greatly reſpected in the church. He wrote concerning the antiquities of the houſe of Drummond, and his book was of uſe to the Lord Viſcount Strathallan, when he wrote his hiſtory of the Drummonds. He died at Kinnoul, April 1635, having arrived at a very old age.

Mr Thomas Halyburton, deſcended from a family in Angus, was ſettled miniſter of Kinnoul, September 16th, 1635. He accompanied the Earl of Kinnoul's children to London in 1639, having obtained, from the preſbytery, leave of abſence. He was tranſlated to the church of Errol, February 1640, and died miniſter of Errol, January 1649.

Mr James Oliphant, was ordained miniſter of Kinnoul, September 1640. He had ſtudied in the Univerſity of St Andrews *. He reſided much in the family of the Earl of Kinnoul; but at laſt, promiſed that he would reſide more conſtantly in his own pariſh. He was ſometimes under pro-

* In 1644, ſome of the Iriſh, who were ſerving under the Marquiſs of Montroſe, roaſted their meat in the pariſh church of Kinnoul, and burnt the forms or ſeats which belonged to the Communion Tables.

ceſs, before the eccleſiaſtical commiſſion, and other courts, as a malignant againſt the ſolemn league and covenant, and ſeems indeed to have been all along a well-wiſher to the royal cauſe. In 1649, he preached a ſermon, ſhewing how unlawful it was for women to pray or to teach in public. But he made uſe in this ſermon of ſome reflections ſo ſevere againſt women in general, as brought him under ſome cenſure. After the King's reſtoration, in 1660, Mr Oliphant, as might well have been expected, conformed to Epiſcopacy, and thereby kept poſſeſſion of his church, till his death, in April 1665.

Mr Thomas Fowler, ſon or grandſon of the aged Mr James Fowler, miniſter of Kinfauns, was ordained to be miniſter of Kinnoul, November 28th, 1665. After the Revolution, in 1689, he was ordered to leave his church, for not conforming to preſbytery. His pariſhioners, however, being greatly attached to him, he continued for ſome years to evade the execution of the ſentence. At laſt, in 1697, he was obliged wholly to leave his church, and delivered up the kirk-box, and above 500 merks in money contained therein.

Mr Andrew Darling, was tranſlated from the pariſh of Hoddam in the preſbytery of Middlebie, to be miniſter of Kinnoul, January 19th, 1698. He was a native of the town of Galaſhiels, in the county of Selkirk. He had been ſent as a miſſionary to aſſiſt the preſbytery of Perth, who were then very few in number; becauſe many pariſhes had reſiſted the introduction of Preſbyterian miniſters. His popular talents made him of great uſe to the cauſe of preſbytery in his own pariſh and neighbourhood. He died at Kinnoul, in 1731, or 32.

Mr Thomas Ranken ſucceeded him in March 1733, and continued miniſter of Kinnoul, till November 1745; when he was tranſlated to Aberdalgie, which was then a much ſmaller

benefice

benefice than Kinnoul, a circumſtance which is not very common in tranſlations.

Mr Patrick Bannerman was tranſlated from St Madoes, and admitted miniſter of Kinnoul, 13th November 1746, and remained miniſter there till November 1760, when he was tranſlated to the pariſh of Salton, in the preſbytery of Haddington.

Mr Patrick Meik was tranſlated from the pariſh of Moneidy, to Kinnoul, July 29th, 1761, and died there, 18th July 1782; and the preſent incumbent was tranſlated from the pariſh of Dunning, in the preſbytery of Auchterarder, and was admitted miniſter of Kinnoul on the 7th November 1782.

The church was rebuilt in 1779. It is a decent and commodious houſe of worſhip; but by much too ſmall for accommodating the pariſhioners. Several families have been obliged to take ſeats in the churches of Perth, a circumſtance which diminiſhes the proviſion for the poor which depends on the weekly collections of this pariſh. The church is beautifully ſituated on the banks of the Tay, oppoſite to Perth; upon the north ſide of it, there is an aile, belonging to the family of Kinnoul, and which was the burying-place of that noble family, till about 20 years ago, when a vault was built for that purpoſe, on the eaſt end of the church of Aberdalgie. In 1635, an elegant monument was erected on the north wall of the aile, to the memory of chancellor Hay, the firſt Earl of Kinnoul; in the middle of which, is a ſtatue of his Lordſhip, as large as the life, dreſſed in his robes as chancellor, and embelliſhed with eſcutcheons, and coats of arms. It is a very ſtriking likeneſs of that great man, if we can judge from the beſt portraits of him in Dupplin caſtle. There is no inſcription on the monument.

The manſe was built in 1735; it has received ſome addition ſince, and has been at different times repaired. The ſtipend

is 2 chalders of bear; 2 chalders of meal; half a chalder of wheat; and about L. 52 ſterling of money, including the Communion Elements. The glebe is about 4 acres and a half; there is no allowance for graſs. The ſacrament is diſpenſed regularly once a year, at which time, no leſs than between 900 and 1000 communicate: a conſiderable number of them come from the neighbouring pariſhes. The collections on that occaſion amount to about L. 10: 10 ſterling. The great number of communicants is chiefly owing to the vicinity of Kinnoul to the populous town of Perth. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron. An Antiburgher meeting-houſe was built about 7 or 8 years ago, on the eaſtern extremity of this pariſh; but the people who belong to it have no miniſter.

School and Poor.—For ſeveral years the parochial ſchool has been in a flouriſhing condition. The number of ſcholars is much the ſame during the ſummer and winter; and is ſeldom under 60, and ſometimes about 80.

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary was lately raiſed from 100 to 200 merks, paid by the heritors; he has a free houſe and garden; and as precenter and Seſſion clerk, his ſalary is L. 3 *per annum*. The preſent number of ſcholars is 65, of whom 4 read Latin; 20 read Engliſh; 24 learn writing, and 17 arithmetic. The ſchool fees per quarter are, for Engliſh, 1s; for writing, 1s 6d; for arithmetic, 2s; and for Latin, 2s 6d. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary, together with the ſchool fees and other perquiſites may amount to L. 35 ſterling; there is another ſchool in Bridge-end, taught by an Antiburgher Seceder, which is pretty well attended.

Poor.—There are no begging poor in the pariſh; but many vagrants reſort thither, from every quarter. The funds for ſupporting the poor ariſe from the weekly collection at the

church; the ſtated dues for the mort-cloth at burials; dues on marriages; a voluntary contribution of the heritors and pariſhioners, who do not contribute at the church doors, or who only attend the church occaſionally; and the intereſt of L. 170 lent out on proper ſecurity, by conſent of the heritors, at 4½ per cent; amounting at an average, to L. 50 *per annum.* The number of poor upon the pariſh roll at preſent is 18, who receive weekly from 6d to 1s 6d, according to their circumſtances. Beſides theſe ſtated penſioners, many occaſional charities are given to families in diſtreſs; ſome receive payment of their houſe-rent; ſome have the ſchool-fees of their children paid; and others receive ſome coals for the winter. When the poor are entered upon the roll, their effects at their death are ſuppoſed to belong to the poor's fund; but very little advantage accrues from this, as generally the claims of relations for attendance, and the expence of the funeral, is more than the effects of the deceaſed will repay. An intimation is given twice a year to the heritors, to meet with the Seſſion, to make up a liſt of the poor, and provide for their maintenance; although no legal aſſeſſment has been hitherto laid on the pariſh; and it is hoped, it will not be found neceſſary, if non-reſiding heritors and others who do not contribute at the church, or who only attend occaſionally, beſtow their charity, according to their abilities.

Antiquities.—About a quarter of a mile ſouth from the church, there is a ſmall veſtige of the old caſtle of Kinnoul. Hector Boethius, takes notice of a curious interview between King James the I. and an old lady who reſided there. "The "ſtory, (ſays Cant, in his hiſtory of Perth), is not altogether "improbable. The King was inquiſitive; the lady was above "100 years old, and had ſeen five of the King's predeceſſors, "beſides Wallace the governor. Boece, informs us, that "after

" after a polite reception of the King, by the lady, who had " loſt her ſight by old age, ſhe was ſeated next to his Majeſty, " and gave him the hiſtory of Wallace and Robert Bruce; " and told him, that ſhe had ſeen them both, who were not " only handſome, but very ſtrong; and that Wallace exceed- " ed Robert Bruce in fortitude. The King departed to Perth " well pleaſed with the entertainment given him by the lady." It is to this ſtory, that Adamſon refers, in theſe lines of (Book vi.) of his *Muſes Threnodie*, printed at Edinburgh 1638.

" Within this place, a lady did remaine,
" Of great experience, who likewiſe knew
" By ſpirit of prophecy, what ſhould enſue;
" Who ſaw Wight Wallace, and brave Bruce on live,
" And both their manhoods lively did deſcrive
" Unto that noble Prince, firſt of that name,
" Worthy King James, who hearing of her fame,
" Went to her houſe, theſe hiſtories to learn,
" When as for age, her eyes could ſcarce diſcerne.
" This lady did foretell of many things,
" Of Britain's Union, under Scottiſh Kings.
" And after ending of our civill feeds,
" Our ſpears in ſyths; our ſwords ſhould turn in ſpeads.
" In ſigne whereof there ſhould ariſe a Knight,
" Sprung from the bloody yoak, who ſhould of right
" Poſſeſs theſe lands, which ſhe then held in fee,
" Who for his worth, and matchleſs loyaltie
" Unto his Prince, ſhould greatly be renown'd,
" And of theſe lands inſtyled, and Earle be crowned;
" Whoſe Son, in ſpight of Tay, ſhould joine theſe lands
" Firmly by ſtone, on either ſide which ſtands."

The laſt lines, have of late been very naturally applied to the late Earl of Kinnoul, to whom we are chiefly indebted for the bridge of Perth; and whoſe lands are on both ſides of the river.

At

At Balthayock, the ſeat of an ancient family of the Blairs, are the remains of an old caſtle, the walls of which are almoſt entire. It appears to have been a place of conſiderable ſtrength, and bears the marks of great antiquity; but we are at a loſs to know by whom or at what period it was built, as there is no record found to determine it; and ſcarcely any traditional account handed down concerning it. It is ſituated on the top of a den, where many uſeful herbs and rare plants are found. The caſtle is ſuppoſed to have belonged to the Knights-Templars.

Hills.—There are 2 hills in this pariſh, *Kinnoul-hill*, and the *hill of Murray's hall*, which are rather different parts of the ſame ridge of hills, at the diſtance of 2 miles from one another; from which there is one of the moſt beautiful and extenſive proſpects. The hill of Kinnoul, is the moſt remarkable. Its height, above the level of the Tay, is 632 feet. On the ſouth, it is exceedingly ſteep, conſiſting of ragged rock, and preſents a very ſtriking and formidable appearance. It is covered with a thriving plantation, to the very ſummit: On the north ſide of the hill, there is a gradual aſcent, through a ſerpentine walk, by which a carriage can eaſily go to the top. This is called Montague's walk, from the late Duke of M. who was in Scotland when it was formed.

There are ſeveral very rare plants to be found on the top of the hill of Kinnoul, among which, are the following:

Cynogloſſum Officinale	Officinal hounds tongue
Nepeta Cataria	Cat-mint
Allium Vineale	Vine Garlick
Potentilla Argentea	Silver Cinquefoil
Veronica Saxatilis	Rock-ſpeedwell
Aſplinium Ceterach, &c.	

This

This hill has been long famous for the number of pebbles found in it, conſiſting of fine agates, onyx, and a few cornelians.

There is a ſteep and hollow deſcent betwixt two tops of the hill, which is called the *Windy Gowle*. Near to this place, in certain poſitions, there is a remarkable echo, that repeats above 9 times; and on the face of the hill there is a cave, in a ſteep part of the rock, which, it is ſaid, will contain about a dozen of men. It is called the *Dragon-hole*. We are informed from the ancient records of the kirk-ſeſſion of Perth, that during the times of Popery, a great number of people aſſembled here, on the 1ſt of May, to celebrate ſuperſtitious games, which the Reformers prohibited under ſevere cenſures and heavy penalties. There is a tradition among the common people, that Sir William Wallace hid himſelf in this hole of the rock, when he abſconded for ſome time.

Proviſions, and Servants Wages, &c.—The price of proviſions has riſen greatly of late years; things in general, are at leaſt doubled in price, within the laſt 20 years. Chickens, which were then ſold for 2d, are now 4d or 6d a piece; hens, which formerly were ſold for 7d or 8d, are now from 1s to 1s 3d; eggs are 6d and 7d the doz.; beef in autumn, is 4d, and in ſpring, 5d, and ſometimes 6d per lib.; mutton from 3d½, to 4d in autumn, and 5d in ſpring; veal and lamb are commonly 6d; all Amſterdam weight. A gooſe ſells at 2s 6d, and 3s; turkeys, at 4s 6d, and 5s; all other proviſions are in the ſame proportion. The prices here are regulated by the Perth market. The yearly wages of a plough-man have increaſed at leaſt one half, ſince 1770. At that period a good plough-man could have been hired for 4 or 5 guineas; and now the common wages are 9, 10, and ſometimes 12 guineas. The wages of women

women ſervants, are between L. 3 and L. 4 *per annum*; of an houſe carpenter a day, 1s 8d; of a maſon, 1s 6d and 1s 8d; of a taylor with victuals, 6d or 8d; and of a common labourer without victuals, 1s or 1s 2d.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants of this pariſh, with a few exceptions, are ſober, induſtrious, œconomical, and contented with their ſituations in life. They are in general, very regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion: they are ready on every emergency to relieve the diſtreſſes, and alleviate the miſeries of their fellow creatures, according to their abilities. And although there are different religious opinions among them, they live in peace and good neighbourhood.

Roads.—There are 3 turnpike roads which go through part of the pariſh; one leading from Perth to Dundee; one to Cupar of Angus; and one by Scone to Kinclaven. Theſe will prove of great advantage, as the farmer has thereby an eaſier acceſs to lime and other manures, and the product of the land is carried to market, at leſs expence and trouble. But the benefit derived from good roads, muſt ſtill be partial and much limited, while the croſs-roads remain in the miſerable ſtate in which they are at preſent, not only in this neighbourhood, but alſo in many other diſtricts, of the country; and it is hoped, that ſome method will ſoon be adopted to remove this inconvenience, at leaſt in ſome meaſure. At firſt, the common people did not reliſh the turnpikes; but they are now ſenſible of the advantage of them.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The number of farms in this pariſh, is about 27; more than the half of theſe, are very

ſmall, and cannot ſupport a family without ſome other employment. The number of heritors is about 28; the moſt part of them are ſmall feuars or portioners. Lord Kinnoul is the principal heritor: there is no free-ſtone quarries in the pariſh; but there is plenty of whin-ſtone, which is very uſeful for building houſes, and has been of great ſervice in making the turnpike roads in this pariſh and neighbourhood. There is only 1 meal-mill in the pariſh: of late, ſeveral mills have been built for threſhing corn. There is a conſiderable brewery and malting concern in Bridge-end. Laſt ſeaſon, there was there malted 2008 bolls of barley, which paid of duty, L. 761: 10: 9. There is alſo a ſmall tannage, which does a good deal of buſineſs; and about half a year ago, Mr Young, a watchmaker, has ſet up a new branch of trade; he makes all the mechanical parts of a watch, and ſends them to the London market; he makes none which are ſold under L. 25: 5, when they are completed.

This pariſh and diſtrict, derives great advantages from its vicinity to Perth, and to the Tay, which is navigable to this place. The fuel of this country is coal, a regular ſupply of which, till of late, was brought in plenty, from the Firth of Forth, and ſold at a moderate rate. The ordinary price, within theſe 6 years, was 3s 2d per boll, which weighs 40 ſtones; and the ſame quantity now, is 4s, or 4s 6d. The late Act of Parliament, which took off the duty coaſt ways, has in ſome meaſure, removed this hardſhip, as many now burn Engliſh coal on reaſonable terms. Some of the poor in this place uſe bruſh-wood, and ſome of them, make a kind of peat of culm, or droſs of coals, mixed with cow-dung.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF STRATHBLANE.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr GIBB.

Name.

THE pariſh of Strathblane takes its name from the river Blane, which riſes in it, and runs through its whole extent. Blane is a contraction of two Gaelic words, ſignifying *warm river.* The literal interpretation of the word Strathblane, conſequently is, "the valley of the warm river;" a name fitly appropriated to this pariſh, which from its ſituation, enjoys a peculiarly mild atmoſphere. Lying on the ſouth ſide of the Lennox hills, it is ſheltered by them from the inclement winds of the north; while the reflection of the ſun's rays from a light ſandy ſoil, produces an agreeable temperature of the air at all ſeaſons.

Situation, Boundaries, &c.—Strathblane is ſituated in the northweſt corner of Stirlingſhire, and lies withing the bounds of the commiſſariot of Glaſgow. In eccleſiaſtical matters it belongs to the preſbytery of Dumbarton, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is bounded on the eaſt, by the pariſh of Camp-

ſie; on the ſouth, by the pariſhes of Baldernock and New-kirkpatrick; and on the weſt and north, by the pariſh of Kil-l arn. It lies 10 miles north from Glaſgow, 14 eaſt by ſouth from Dunbarton, and 20 ſouthweſt from Stirling. Its form is an oblong ſquare, 5 miles long, and 4 miles broad.

Soil, and face of the Country.—This pariſh may properly be diſtinguiſhed into valley and moor grounds. The valley is bounded by high hills on the north, and by a riſing ground on the ſouth ſide of the river, which aſcends about one third of the height of the oppoſite hills. This hanging ground on each ſide of the river, conſiſts of a light quick ſoil, is well cultivated, and produces excellent crops. Toward the weſtern extremity, the valley widens conſiderably; and the ſoil there, on the level grounds, is clay mixed with a rich earth, depoſited from time to time, by the overflowing of the river. This ſoil is fit to carry heavy crops of any kind of grain.

The moor runs parallel to the valley, commencing at the brink of the riſing ground on the ſouth ſide of the river, and extending in an uneven ſurface, about a mile and a half in breadth. Here the ground deſcends into the pariſh of New-kirkpatrick, with a declivity ſimilar to that with which it aſcends from the Blane. A great proportion of this conſiſts of heath; but in many places, particularly on the ſouth border, and in the weſtern extremity, it is now cultivated, and produces crops nearly as rich as thoſe in the Strath. The ſoil here, in the parts ſuſceptible of cultivation, is dry, light, and rocky; and from the return which it makes, when properly laboured and manured, gives great encouragement to the improver. Beſides theſe moor and valley grounds, the hills on the north ſide of the pariſh afford moſt excellent paſture for black cattle and ſheep.

The

The general appearance of the country is agreeably picturesque. Coming from the south, the traveller at first ascends from the fertile fields of New-kirkpatrick, into what appears an extensive heath; but which he no sooner enters, than he finds it interspersed with cultivated fields, and here and there observes a lake of several acres. Descending into the valley, he is charmed with the verdure of the country, the mildness of the air, and the appearance of chearfulness and plenty, which is displayed around. Several neat villas scattered along the bottom of the hills, and here and there a cascade precipitating its torrent from their sides, enliven and beautify the scene. In summer, the landscape is enriched and adorned by the luxuriant foliage of the woods with which the hills are skirted, and the whole receives an air of grandeur, from the abrupt precipices in which the hills terminate. Toward the west, the hill of Dumgoiack, on the Duntreath estate, presents a singular and striking appearance. Insulated in the middle of the valley, of a conical figure, and compleatly clothed with wood, it arrests the attention; whilst a shoulder of the opposite hill, projecting like the pedestal of an arch, directs the eye, as it were through an immense vista, to the plains below, when the whole prospect is bounded by the distant mountains on the side of Lochlomond.

Cultivation and Produce.—For many years past the farmers have paid considerable attention to the improvement of their lands; and perhaps the state of agriculture is nearly as far advanced as the nature of the soil will admit. Already inclosed, for the most part dry, and originally quick and fertile, it requires only to be manured and laboured, in order to produce plentifully. The manure chiefly used is lime, and the opportunity of getting it readily from the neighbouring parishes of Campsie and Baldernock, has caused it to be generally

rally adopted. The quantity laid on at once is but ſmall, being 4 chalders per acre; but this is repeated with equal advantage, after two rotations of crops, or every 12th year. This fact has been aſcertained by undoubted experiment. The crops generally raiſed, are oats, barley, and graſs-ſeeds. The uſual rotation, is 2 years paſture, 2 crops of oats, 2 of hay, and then paſture again. The lime is ſpread upon the paſture graſs, a year previous to ploughing it up for oats. This gives it time to incorporate with the mould, and both improves the graſs, and meliorates the ſoil for a future crop, to a higher degree than when laid on in the ſame year in which the ground is ploughed. The graſs-ſeeds are ſown with the ſecond crop of oats, in the quantity of half a boll of rye-graſs ſeed, and from 4 to 6 pounds of clover ſeed to an acre. This courſe of cropping is uniformly adhered to, and is only varied, in as far as barley is partially introduced for the ſecond crop of oats. As far as this can be done, it is certainly an improvement on the plan; but as barley only ſucceeds when the ground is well dunged, the ſowing of it cannot be extended any farther than the quantity of that manure collected in the courſe of the year will admit.

This method of croping may be thought too ſevere, eſpecially the ſecond crop of hay, which is very impoveriſhing. But as this article brings a good price, being uſually ſold at 6d per ſtone, the farmer depends a good deal upon it for his rent; and it yields ready money the ſecond year, without any expence of ſeed or labour; an object worthy of being attended to.

Of late years, however, the farmer's hopes have in a great meaſure been fruſtrated in this reſpect, by the inattention of the ſeed merchants, who have ſupplied them with rye-graſs ſeed, which remains only one year in the ground. The firſt appearance of this annual ſeed, cauſed a good deal of alarm

and

and diſappointment, and various methods have been adopted, to remedy or ſupply the defect. Some by preſerving and collecting the ſeed of ſuch as remained the ſecond year, acquired by degrees, a ſtock ſufficient for their own ſupply. Others, by ſowing an additional quantity of clover ſeed, ſecured at leaſt, a good bulk of hay the ſecond year, though inferior in quality to the rye-graſs hay.

But the hope of an effectual and general relief is now afforded, by the public ſpirited propoſals of the *Farmers Society* at Glaſgow, who have lately taken the matter into conſideration. This ſociety (of which moſt of the farmers in this pariſh are members), conſiſts of the moſt noted and experienced farmers in an extent of country of 15 or 20 miles round Glaſgow. The exertions of ſo many men, eminent in their profeſſion, promiſe to become of general utility. By a private ſubſcription among themſelves, they have already raiſed a conſiderable fund, from which, they give premiums to eminence in agricultural exertions or uſeful improvements. They alſo aſſiſt ſpirited members of their own body, by lending them money from their fund, toward carrying uſeful projects into execution. It has been propoſed amongſt them, to commiſſion their own graſs-ſeeds from the beſt foreign markets; by this plan if it ſhall be carried into execution, they will not only ſecure the beſt in quality, but alſo have a ſaving on the price. When imported to the general depot at Glaſgow, each pariſh can conveniently get the quantity alotted to it conveyed home. It is by turning the attention of the inhabitants of a country to ſuch uſeful and practical objects, that a nation may expect to become truly great.

Peaſe and beans have been found to thrive well in ſeveral farms, and one ſpirited farmer made lately an experiment of a wheat crop, which ſucceeded to his wiſh. From 2 acres, he reaped 32 bolls. The ground indeed was ſummer fallow-

ed, and richly dunged. This ſucceſs would have encouraged him to continue the plan, but the ſcanty ſupply of dung prevented him. He therefore now ſubſtitutes a turnip crop for the ſummer fallow, and a barley crop for the wheat; and from an exact calculation, he finds he is a gainer by this latter method. If this practice ſhould become general, it will certainly be more profitable than the method at preſent in uſe.

The following table contains the average quantity of grain and hay ſown, and produced annually.

	Annual Average of		
	Bolls ſown.	Product of each boll.	Total product.
Oats	486	7	3402
Barley	44	8	352
	Acres.	Stones.	Stones.
Hay	120 product	150 per ac.	18000

Grazing.—Agriculture, however, conſtitutes only one branch of the farmers employment in this pariſh. The rearing and feeding black cattle and ſheep, occupy a conſiderable ſhare of their attention. The excellent paſture afforded by the hills, which can never be turned to agricultural purpoſes, both compels and encourages their exertions in the grazing line.

In this branch, the ſtock of milk cows deſerves to be firſt mentioned. This has been brought to a conſiderable degree of excellence, by the attention which has been given to procure bulls of a good kind, and by ſelecting the beſt and handſomeſt cows to breed from. Accordingly, the breed is much eſteemed in the country toward the weſt and north, and the farmers find encouragement to rear as many as they can, to anſwer the demand that is made from that quarter. The cows reared, are ſold when they firſt become pregnant, which

which is at 3 years old, and they then bring from L. 5 to L. 6 each.

Beſides the milk cows or native ſtock, a conſiderable number of highland cows are fattened upon each farm. Theſe are commonly bought in at the Michaelmaſs and Martinmaſs markets, and wintered upon the farm, with the aſſiſtance of a little fodder, from New-year's-day, till the middle of April. They are then fed during the following ſummer, and ſold to the Glaſgow and Paiſley markets in autumn. At the time they are ſold, they generally weigh from 18 to 24 ſtones of beef and tallow, which brings, at an average, 6s per ſtone.

The ſheep ſtock conſiſts of ewes, which are all of the ſhort or black faced kind; which the farmers have taken conſiderable care to improve, by ſelecting the beſt rams, and ſupplying the defect of their ſtock, with the beſt and ſtouteſt ewe lambs. In addition to this, they alſo buy in from time to time, good lambs from thoſe parts of the country which are famed for keeping good ſtocks of ſheep. The profits ariſing from the ſheep ſtock, are chiefly derived from the wool and lambs. The ſmeared wool ſells at 6s per ſtone, and white wool from 8s to 9s. The lambs bring at an average 6s each. A few of the worſt ewes called *ſhotts*, are likewiſe ſold every year about Martinmaſs.

The ewes are ſo managed, as to begin to produce their lambs about the 10th of April; the moſt proper ſeaſon on high grounds. It ſometimes happens, that a number of them have twins. When that is the caſe, the ewes are brought down to the low grounds, where the rich paſture enables them to nurſe both. If any ewe happens to loſe her lamb, ſhe is confined in a houſe, with a twin lamb taken from another, for two nights; by which time, ſhe becomes attached to it, and nurſes it as her own. In the latter end of July, the lambs are weaned; when thoſe ſelected for keeping up

the ſtock, are put to a ſeparate part of the farm, where they are kept apart from their dams, till next ſummer. The reſt are either ſold for ſlaughter, or for ſtocking farms in other parts of the country.

In the month of November the whole ſtock is ſmeared; a practice which, although it is both expenſive and troubleſome, is found to be not only neceſſary, but beneficial. The ſalve, a mixture of tar and butter, kills the vermin with which ſheep are infeſted, and makes the wool adhere cloſely to the animal. This contributes both to its comfort during the winter, and preſerves a better fleece till the ſeaſon of ſhearing, than what is then found on the white or unſmeared ſheep. The wool alſo, though not of ſo fair a colour as the unſmeared, is yet of a better quality. Theſe advantages attendant upon ſmearing, have been aſcertained in the moſt ſatisfactory manner, by a comparative experiment lately made by a farmer in this place. He took 100 lambs of the ſame ſtock, and divided them equally; taking equal care in every reſpect of the two parcels. He ſmeared 50, and left 50 unſmeared. At the ſheep ſhearing ſeaſon, 4 fleeces of thoſe that were ſmeared, weighed a ſtone; whereas, it took 7 fleeces of the unſmeared to produce the ſame weight. The quality too of this laſt was inferior, being coarſe and matted. He perſiſted in the experiment for 5 years, and the older the ſheep grew, the preference in favour of the ſmeared wool became ſtill more decided; till at laſt the merchant could ſcarcely be prevailed upon to take the white wool at the ſame price with the ſmeared. The ewes alſo failed ſooner than the others; ſo that he gave up the attempt, fully convinced of the propriety of ſmearing the wool ſtock.

The ſame enterpriſing ſpirit, however, which prompted the above experiment, induced him to try others, for reducing the expence of ſmearing. After repeated trials of ſundry ingredients

gredients mixed with the *tar* and *butter*, in order to reduce the quantity of theſe expenſive articles, he found that butter-milk in a certain proportion, produced this effect. Thus, 2 pints of butter milk, added to 6 pints of tar, Scots meaſure, and 12 pounds Tron, of butter, will ſmear 4 ſheep more than the ſame quantity of tar and butter by themſelves. If the butter-milk be a week or two old, it is ſo much the better. It makes the tar and butter incorporate more cloſely, renders the ſalve firm, and draws much finer upon the ſheep, than without it. Beſides theſe advantages, the ſalve thus prepared, is fit for immediate uſe; whereas, without this ingredient, it requires to ſtand ſome days after it is made, before it can be uſed.

The horſes kept in this pariſh, are entirely deſtined for the purpoſes of huſbandry, and a very few are reared for ſale.

A table is ſubjoined, ſhewing the numbers of each kind of cattle in the pariſh.

Horſes kept for labour, - -	100
Do. reared annually, - -	26
Milk cows, - -	310
Cows rearing under 3 years old, -	376
Cows fattened annually, - -	442
Sheep, conſiſting of ewes. -	1200

This article ought not to be concluded, without taking notice of the laudable exertions of Archibald Edmonſtone, an extenſive grazier on the Duntreath eſtate, to introduce improvements in his line. Among many other attempts to this purpoſe, (to which alluſions have oftener than once been already made in this account,) he has lately introduced a few ſheep of the true Spaniſh breed into his farm. The only hazard of which he was apprehenſive, was that the inclemen-

cy of the weather in winter would hurt them. Of this apprehenſion he has been moſt agreeably relieved. They have already ſtood two winters, as well as the reſt of his ſtock; and one of them was the moſt ſevere, that has been known for many ſeaſons. The only precaution which he uſed, was to keep them on his low grounds during winter; but in ſummer, they are fond of feeding on the tops of the hills, and thrive there as well as the native breed. Their lambs are equally hardy as themſelves, and promiſe to become a great acquiſition to the country; the wool being much ſuperior to any ever known in this place. Each ewe produced L. 4, and the ram L. 5, which brought 3s 6d per pound, and was even at that price ſold much under value.

Laſt year he croſſed the breed with the Spaniſh ram and Scots ewes; and alſo with a Scots ram, and the Spaniſh ewes; and this experiment has ſucceeded beyond expectation. The lambs thus generated, have wool little or nothing inferior to the old Spaniſh ſheep, and they may be expected to be even hardier than theſe, as being inured to the climate from their birth. In ſhort, there is not a doubt, if he had a ſufficient extent of low ground to winter a large ſtock upon, that Mr Edmonſtone would puſh this experiment to a degree which might prove highly beneficial to himſelf, to his landlord, and, *as ſetting an uſeful example*, to the whole country.

In autumn laſt, he alſo procured a few Cheviot ewes, which he has croſſed with his Spaniſh ram. It is expected this will produce a hardy breed, and improve the wool to a ſtill greater degree of fineneſs, than the croſſing with the common Scots ewes; but on the ſucceſs of this experiment, time muſt be left to decide.

Manufactures.—Although this pariſh cannot boaſt of extenſive eſtabliſhments in manufactures, yet lying in the vici-

nity

nity of the city of Glaſgow, a portion of that ſpirit of enterpriſe, which poſſeſſes all ranks there, has diffuſed itſelf hither. Three bleachfields have lately been erected, which employ a conſiderable number of perſons. Theſe belong to companies ſtationed at Glaſgow, who ſend their goods here to be bleached. Nothing can excel the ſoftneſs and pureneſs of the water for this purpoſe, being broken by ruſhing from the hills and precipices, and filtered through beds of the cleaneſt ſand. The ground alſo on the banks of the river, affords the moſt favourable ſituations for ſpreading cloth. Conſiſting of a warm ſandy ſoil, it contributes towards whitening and clearing the goods ſooner, and to a more exquiſite pureneſs, than can be done where the ſoil below is of a clayiſh texture. The chief employment of one field is bleaching muſlins and pullicates. The other two belonging to inkle factories in Glaſgow, are wholly confined to bleaching tapes and yarn.

Mechanics.—Of theſe weavers conſtitute the greateſt proportion, as beſides the employment they get from the country people, they are ſupplied with abundance of work from the manufacturing companies in Glaſgow. There are about 22 looms employed in this manner; beſides 10 inkle looms lately ſet to work, at one of the bleachfields above mentioned. Of other tradeſmen, there are 7 taylors, 3 ſhoemakers, 3 hoſiers, 3 carpenters, and 1 ſmith.

Population.—There being a great many feuars or ſmall heritors, who reſide upon and labour their own lands, this pariſh has on that account been leſs ſubject to fluctuation in its inhabitants, than might otherwiſe have happened. It has however experienced ſome changes in this reſpect. A conſiderable diminution of numbers has been produced, within the laſt 20 or 30 years, by the greater proprietors letting out

their lands in large farms, which exclude cottagers. On the other hand, an acceſſion of 60 or 70, has lately been obtained by the perſons employed at the bleachfields.

The population as returned to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 797. In this preſent year 1795, it is found by an actual enumeration, to be 620 ſouls.

Of theſe there are,

Under 10 years of age,	140
From 10 to 20 years,	125
—— 20 to 50 -	247
—— 50 to 70 -	68
—— 70 to 100 -	40
Total	620
Diminution ſince 1755,	177

Average of deaths *per annum*, -	7
—— of births, -	13
—— of marriages, -	5

Poor.—The poor are ſupported by the weekly collections at the church, and the intereſt of a fund amounting to L. 220, accumulated by charitable donations from individuals, having property or intereſt in the pariſh. There are at preſent 7 perſons on the pariſh-roll; 5 of whom receive 5s monthly, and the other 2, being bed-rid, receive 10s monthly. Beſides this allowance, they are ſupplied with coals in the winter, and for ſome of them, their houſe rent is paid. Several others, who have not hitherto been admitted on the roll, receive ſuch occaſional aſſiſtance, as their neceſſity requires. Theſe diſtributions are managed by the Kirk Seſſion, without any

any expence to the fund. To their diſcretion alſo, is left the apportioning each poor perſon's ſupply, and they keep regular books for the inſpection of the heritors. By this management, the poor are kept from public begging, a nuiſance wherever it prevails; and with which this pariſh, notwithſtanding it thus ſupports its own poor, is greatly infeſted by mendicants from other parts.

Heritors.—The ſuperiority of this pariſh is veſted in his Grace the Duke of Montroſe and Sir Archibald Edmonſtone Baronet of Duntreath; whoſe anceſtors, at one time, alſo poſſeſſed the whole property of it. In the beginning of laſt century, that part of it which belonged to the eſtates of Montroſe was chiefly feued out; the caſtle of Mugdock, and the park adjoining, being alone retained in the family. The eſtate of Duntreath, formerly one of the greater baronies, in right whereof the proprietors ſat in Parliament without election, ſtill conſtitutes about a third part of the pariſh. The anceſtors of this family, were twice allied to the Royal Family of Scotland. Their laſt marriage into it was between Sir William Edmonſtone, Baronet of Duntreath, and Mary Counteſs of Angus, daughter of Robert III. and ſiſter to James I. This Princeſs lies buried in Strathblane church. The preſent Sir Archibald is lineally deſcended from both alliances.

There are 9 other heritors, who poſſeſs property in the pariſh, from L. 100 to L. 250 each; beſides 15 of ſmaller note, who reſide on, and farm their own lands. The whole rental of the pariſh, amounts to L. 2500.

Church, &c.—The church is a mean building, erected in the beginning of the preſent century; and having never been lathed or plaiſtered, the bare walls and roof without cieling,

cieling, preſent a very ſorry appearance for a place of worſhip.

The ſtipend hitherto has been 85 bolls of oat-meal, and L. 27:7:11 ſterling in money. A new decreet of modification was obtained at the inſtance of the preſent incumbent, before the Teind Court, in 1793, converting the money into grain; which when allocated, will augment the value of the *living* to L. 130. His Grace the Duke of Montroſe is patron.

Roads, &c.—This pariſh is interſected with good roads in every direction. Two turnpikes run through it from ſouth to north, in parallel lines, at 2 miles diſtance from each other. The one leads from Glaſgow to Balfron, and a little beyond that village, joins the great military road between Stirling and Dumbarton, at the 17th mile-ſtone from Stirling. The other line leads from Glaſgow to Drymen, where it alſo joins the military road, at the 11th mile from Dumbarton. Beſides theſe roads, which interſect the pariſh at right angles, there is another which cuts it diagonally, from ſoutheaſt to northweſt, forming a junction between the Edinburgh road near Kilſyth, and the above-mentioned military road at Drymen bridge. The weſtern part of this line, which was formerly impaſſible, is juſt now converted into an excellent turnpike road. If the bridge over the Leven at the mouth of Lochlomond, which is at preſent in contemplation, be built, the ſtraight road from the weſt highlands to Edinburgh, will run through Strathblane, thereby avoiding the compaſs by Stirling on the one hand, and by Glaſgow on the other. To theſe advantages, it will add that of being more level, there being no ſenſible aſcent from the Leven, to Kilſyth. All theſe roads have received very material improvements within the laſt 6 years. From being ſo ſteep and rugged,

that

that a horſe could not draw half a load upon them, they are now rendered ſmooth and level, ſo that a carriage of any weight may paſs with eaſe. This improvement we owe to Robert Dunmore of Ballendalloch Eſqr, the original mover of it; a gentleman to whoſe public ſpirited exertions this diſtrict of country ſtands indebted for many real and permanent advantages.

There are many bridges over the ſtreams which fall from the mountains; but none of any note. They all conſiſt of 1 arch, of about 12 feet ſpan. Of theſe, there are 7 within the pariſh, which render the communication eaſy and ſafe at all times.

Wells, Lakes, &c.—The hills, which form the northern boundary of the pariſh, conſtitute part of that range anciently known by the name of "the Lennox hills." In former times, the noble family of that name had extenſive poſſeſſions in this part of the country; and the diſtrict itſelf was denominated Lennox. The ſhire itſelf is now partitioned between the counties of Dumbarton and Stirling; but the range of hills will tranſmit the name to poſterity.

The "Lennox hills" reach from Dumbarton to Stirling, beyond which the range is continued from the Forth to the Tay, under the name of the Ochils. Throughout the whole, ſtupenduous piles of baſaltic rocks are found. In Fintry, which lies in the midſt of this range, about 8 miles eaſtward, a moſt magnificent colonade of theſe pillars preſents itſelf; of which a particular deſcription is given in the Statiſtical Account of that pariſh. In this pariſh, the front of a precipice for the ſpace of a furlong is lined with ſtately columns of the ſame kind. They conſiſt of 4, 5, and 6 ſides, are from 2 to 3 feet in diameter, and 30 feet high. They riſe from the horizon with a little inclination from the perpendicular,

and ſome of them are apparently bent in a ſegment of a curve line.

The higheſt hill in the pariſh is the *Earl's ſeat*, elevated above the reſt of the range, with a conical top. Here the Blane has its ſource, whence it runs in a ſouthweſt direction for 3 miles, and is then precipitated from the ſouth ſide of the hill, over ſeveral very high falls. The moſt remarkable of theſe is the *ſpout* of *Ballagan*, a caſcade of 70 feet. This, when the river is ſwelled, puts on a very grand appearance. Leaving the ſpout, the Blane turns due weſt; when after running 8 miles in this direction, it loſes itſelf in the Endrick, which falls into Lochlomond. It may here be obſerved, that the Blane, with the whole diſtrict through which it runs, has been omitted to be marked in Ainſlie's map of Scotland.

At the ſpout of Ballagan a very remarkable ſection of the hill is preſented. The ſide of it, cut perpendicularly by the water, diſcovers no fewer than 192 alternate ſtrata of earth and lime-ſtone. Near the bottom of the ſection are found ſeveral thin ſtrata of alabaſter of the pureſt white. There were found alſo near the ſame place, among the rubbiſh thrown up by the river in a late inundation, ſome fragments of antimony, which when tried by a chemical proceſs, turned out to be very rich ſpecimens. The ſource however, whence theſe were dug, has not been diſcovered. If it ſhall be found, it may probably prove a valuable mine.

There are 6 lakes in the pariſh, the largeſt of which does not exceed half a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth. Theſe lie in the moor-land part of the pariſh, and contribute to render that a chearful proſpect, which would otherwiſe be bleak and dull. They abound with pike, perch, and trout. They are alſo frequented by wild ducks, and other aquatic fowls. In the Blane likewiſe, there are

plenty

plenty of ſmall and ſome large trout; and ſalmon make their way up in conſiderable numbers, at ſpawning time.

Buildings.—The caſtles of Mugdock and Duntreath, eſpecially the former, have been anciently places of conſiderable ſtrength. There is no tradition concerning the time when they were built; nor do they bear any inſcription from which that can be aſcertained. Their conſtruction, however, determines them to have been built about the ſame time, and for the like purpoſe, with many others of the kind in Scotland, viz. to defend the chieftains who poſſeſſed them from the ſudden incurſions of a hoſtile or enraged neighbour. The caſtle of Mugdock ſeems to have been a regular fortification. Covered on the eaſt and north by a lake, the waters of which were drawn around it by a ditch, whereof the ſcite is ſtill apparent; it muſt have been inacceſſible to any force, which could be brought againſt it in thoſe days. The ſquare tower which is ſtill entire, has ſomething peculiar in its conſtruction. After riſing to the height of the outer wall, the weſt and ſouth ſides of it ſpread ſo as to form an obtuſe angle at the corner, over the great arched gate-way. This would appear to have been done with a view of more eaſily obſerving from within the motions of an aſſailant. By this conſtruction alſo, miſſive weapons might be diſcharged from both thoſe ſides of the tower, upon an enemy approaching the gate.

Oppoſite to this tower, at the diſtance of 300 yards, is heard a very extraordinary echo. It repeats any ſentence of 6 ſyllables, in the exact tone, and with the very accent, in which it is uttered; waiting deliberately till the ſentence is finiſhed, before it begins; and it will reverberate even a whiſper.

Trees.—Two oak trees adjoining to the public road at Blarquhoſh, in the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, attract the notice of paſſengers, as being unuſually large in this part of the country. The trunk of the largeſt, meaſures 15 feet in circumference, and its branches form the radii of a circle 30 yards in diameter. As the public road paſſes underneath it, it falls within the notice of every traveller. The other grows near it, and though not quite ſo large, is a more beautiful tree, having a taller trunk, and being more cloſely covered with foliage.

Inundations.—Owing to the vicinity of the hills which attract the clouds, the Blane is frequently ſubject to ſudden ſwellings. It has however, only riſen twice to an alarming height, withing the memory of perſons now living. About 60 years ago, a water ſpout is ſaid to have burſt at its ſource; which poured ſuch a torrent from the hill, as threatened unavoidable deſtruction to the plains below. Happily however, as the Blane falls into the valley, at a place whence it declines to both the eaſt and weſt, the waters, burſting from their accuſtomed channel, were diſcharged eaſtward. By this circumſtance, the country was ſaved at that time, from the effects of the deluge. The waters turning in this direction, where the valley is wide and level, they ſtagnated upon it. Here alſo, they could do little damage, the ground toward the eaſt for 2 miles being marſhy.

The accounts, however, which old people gave of the magnitude of that inundation, were ſuch as appeared fabulous; till they were again formidably exemplified, during a thunder ſtorm on the 13th of Auguſt laſt, 1795. About 8 o'clock on the evening of that day, the clouds which during the afternoon had hung in threatening aſpect around the ſkirts of the horizon, were condenſed above the Earl's ſeat. Here they burſt,

burſt, and fell, as was evident from the effects, in entire ſheets. The ſpout of Ballagan appeared as an opening, whence the bowels of the mountain were iſſuing in water: reaching the plain, the torrent burſt the banks of the river on each ſide, and diſcharged itſelf in nearly equal quantites to the eaſt and weſt. That which run weſt, tore up every thing before it. Corn fields were laid waſte. Oats, barley, and potatoes, were deſtroyed to a great amount. Much damage was done to the bleachfields below. It carried ſtones of 3 tons weight a conſiderable way into the open field. At one place, it forced a paſſage for itſelf along the public road, which it tore up like the channel of a river. In ſhort, it preſented ſuch a ſcene of devaſtation, as muſt appear incredible to thoſe who have not ſeen it. It is computed, that there was at leaſt 6 times the quantity of water ever ſeen in the river, during the greateſt uſual floods; and had it not been for the circumſtance of a part being diſcharged to the eaſt, it would have ſwept the houſes ſituated on its banks before it. It laſted 4 hours, during which time, the thunder and lightening were tremenduous.

Hiſtorical Anecdotes.—The name of Rob Roy M'Gregor, a famous Highland free-booter, is familiar to every inhabitant of this part of Scotland. The depredations which he and his deſcendants committed are ſtill related with wonder. The following copy of an order of the Juſtices of the Peace, met in quarter ſeſſion at Stirling, a little after the middle of laſt century, will ſhow the manner in which he held the country under contribution. It is taken verbatim from the original manuſcript, ſent at that time to be publiſhed at the kirk of Strathblane.

"At

"At Stirling, in ane Quarter Seſſion, held be the Juſ-
"tices of his Highneſs Peace, upon the 3d day Febru-
"ary, 1658—9. The Laird of Touch being Chyrſ-
"man.

"Upon reading of ane petition given in be Captain M'Gre-
"gor, makand mention that ſeveral heritors and inhabitants
"of the paroches of Campſie, Dennie, Baldernock, Stra-
"blane, Killearn, Gargunnock, and uthers within the ſher-
"rifdom of Stirling, did agrie with him to overſee and pre-
"ſerve thair houſes, goods, and geir, frae oppreſſioun, and
"accordinglie did pay him; and now that ſum perſones delay
"to maik payment according to aggriement and uſe of pay-
"ment; thairfore it is ordered, that all heritors and inhabi-
"tants of the paroches aforeſaid, maik payment to the ſaid
"Captaine M'Gregor, of thair proportionnes, for his ſaid
"ſervice, till the firſt of February laſt paſt, without delay.
"All conſtables in the ſeveral paroches, are heirby comman-
"dit to ſee this order put in executionne, as they ſall anſwer
"the contrair. It is alſo heirby declared, that all who have
"been ingadgit in payment, ſal be liberat after ſuch tyme
"that they goe to Captaine M'Gregor, and declare to
"him, that they are not to expect any ſervice frae him,
"or he to expect any payment frae them. Juſt copie ex-
"tracted be

"James Stirling, Clk. of the Peace."

"For Archibald Edmonſtoune, Bailzie of Duntreath, to
"be publiſhed at the Kirk of Strablane."

It is to be obſerved, that the inhabitants of the country were obliged to enter into ſuch engagements with him, to ſecure

cure them againſt the depredations of a banditti employed by himſelf to plunder. And as he poſſeſſed power enough to overawe even juſtice itſelf, it is not to be wondered at, that he obtained ſuch an order in his own behalf. Such an incident ſhould teach us to ſet a high value upon the happy privileges which we enjoy under a mild and ſafe government.

About 3 years ago, a number of old coins were found in this pariſh, incloſed in a log of wood. They conſiſted of crowns, half crowns, and ſhillings of Elizabeth, James I. of England, and Charles I. A few gold coins were alſo found amongſt them, and ſome Dutch ducatoons; the value of the whole might amount to L. 40 ſterling. The log was about a foot and a half ſquare. A ſmall triangular opening was cut into the ſurface of one of the ſides; by this aperture, the log had been excavated, and the treaſure depoſited. It was then cloſed up with a piece of wood, neatly fitted to the place, and faſtened with wooden pegs. As none of the coins bear a later date than the reign of Charles I. they muſt have been concealed during the troubles which preceded or ſucceeded the death of that monarch.

The hiſtory of the log itſelf is ſomewhat ſingular. It can be traced back for 40 years. At that time, it is remembered to have ſerved as a prop to the end of a bench in a ſchool-houſe, near the church. Afterwards, it was uſed as a play thing by children, who amuſed themſelves with carrying it to the top of a declivity, whence it rolled to the bottom. It then lay many years on the wall of the church-yard. At laſt, it was appropriated by a crazy old woman, a pauper, who lived in a hut by herſelf. She uſed it as a ſeat for above a dozen of years. She dying, a neighbour was employed to waſh the clothes that were found in her houſe. As fuel was ſcarce, the log was laid on the fire to heat water for that purpoſe; it not burning quickly, the waſher woman took it off,

and proceeded to cleave it with a hatchet. At the firſt ſtroke, the treaſure came out and was ſecured by the woman, who perceiving the value, wiſhed to conceal it. In a few days however, it was divulged. But the woman's huſband, who was a worthleſs fellow, got hold of it, and decamped with the whole amount; a few pieces excepted, which he had previouſly ſold. He has not ſince been ſeen in the country, and has left his wife to ſupport 5 children by her own induſtry.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF LEUCHARS.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr KETTLE.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

LEUCHARS, if derived from the Celtic language, is ſaid by ſome, to ſignify a wet flat; by others, a place abounding with ruſhes; either, or both interpretations faithfully deſcribe the appearance which the ſurface made ſome years ago, a great way to the northeaſt, and a little to the ſouthweſt of this village. The diſtrict is of large extent from weſt to eaſt, and from ſouthweſt to northeaſt, more than 9 ſtatute miles, and more than 5 miles broad, at two different parts of the pariſh, conſiderably diſtant from each other. The meaſurement by Mr William Innes now lies before me.

The figure of the pariſh is completely irregular, being bounded on the northeaſt, eaſt, and ſoutheaſt, by the German ocean, and the various windings of the river Eden on the ſouth, and ſouthweſt; on the other parts by the neighbouring pariſhes. It is affirmed with truth, that within the bounds of this diſtrict, every ſoil known in this country is to

be found: blue, white, and red clays, strong and weak, sharp lands, loam of various depth and strength; a mixture of loam and clay, light lands, moss, heath and bent in no small quantities. Before Sir David Carnegie sold part of the lordship of Leuchars, he employed a number of workmen to cut a large drain of 3 miles long, passing through the west end of the village of Leuchars, that the surface on each side of it might be turned into more important uses. The Hon. Robert Lindsay bought this part of the lordship before the effect of the drain was fully proved. Mr Lindsay found himself under the necessity, at no small expence, considerably to enlarge the former drain, and thereby rendered it effectual for relieving the flat grounds of the water through which it passed. Many acres formerly covered with coarse grass and rushes, and about 36 acres south and west of Leuchars, covered with water to a considerable depth in the winter season, and not free from water in the summer, are now producing abundant crops of all kinds of grain, clover, turnip, and cabbage. These grounds are let from 14s to L. 1 : 16 per acre; yielding a profitable return to the generous landlord, and affording the labourers hope, that their expence and industry may not be altogether unrewarded. Of the many remaining acres to the north and northeast, some are highly improved, and others in a state of preparation for similar crops. These circumstances are motives which should prompt to exertion in all similar situations in Scotland; but are by no means, to those who wish well to mankind, the most important motives for draining water from the neighbourhood of villages. Before the above drain (of 20 feet wide, and 14 deep, for a considerable way above the outlet) was cut, the families who lived near the stagnant water, were subject in the spring and end of autumn, to intermitting fevers of very long continuance; from 23 to 33, and sometimes to 39 days. Whole families were to be seen in

ſuch diſtreſs at the ſame time, that no one could aſſiſt the others. They depended on the kind miniſtrations of their neighbours, for the ſupply of their neceſſities. Often has the poor's fund been employed, to pay women to wait upon ſuch diſtreſſed families; and it is hoped, it will not be looked upon as a proſtitution of that ſacred fund. Since theſe ſtagnant waters were completely drained, thoſe diſeaſes and the ſad train of complaints connected with them, have happily been unknown; meanwhile, it is ſuppoſeable, that the ſame happy effects muſt flow from the ſame cauſes in every part of the country, and ſhould prove an irreſiſtable motive to draining, independent of the profit or ſatisfaction reſulting from it. It is not eaſy to deſcribe the pleaſure of viewing luxuriant crops, adorning the place where the eye had been accuſtomed to ſee ſtagnant water and noxious vapour impregnated with diſeaſes and death.

Agriculture.—The culture of this pariſh is conducted by a ſober well informed perſevering and wealthy tenantry. No expence or labour is withheld. Every exertion is made to beſtow whatever is thought neceſſary, under the providence of a gracious God, to aid the fertility of the ſoil. All chilling moiſture is led away, and the plough is made to return till the roots of every weed are deſtroyed. Every meliorating crop has its due rotation. Lime, that genial pulverizer, that gives healthy fermentation, is brought by water from England and Scotland, and from lime-kilns in the neighbourhood by land carriage, and thrown with unſparing liberality upon the fertile boſom of the earth.

A very conſiderable quantity of wheat is annually raiſed in this diſtrict, although ſeveral of the tenants have been unwilling to mention the exact number of bolls they ſow; by their own account, there were 649 bolls ſown in 1790; and in 1791,

670 bolls were sown. I believe that the sowing of wheat is upon the increase in this parish; and although I do not presume to be a judge, I have an apprehension, that it may be carried too far.

Considerable quantities of wheat, barley, pease, and beans, are annually exported from this district; several hundred bolls of oats, and sometimes of potatoes; but the exported potatoes as far as I know, never turn to great account, which has in some measure cooled the ardour of exporting this valuable part of the produce. Flax is also raised; but not in such quantities as to compete for premiums. It is thought a severe crop, and there is seldom more sown than what is necessary for the use of the families, or in order to induce labourers to engage for the harvest. The tenant gives 10 yards square to sow one lippy of lint-seed. Some tenants allow two lippies to each of their labourers. Formerly, the land here was ploughed by 4 and 6 oxen, and 2, sometimes 4 horses before them all, yoke fellows in a large Scots plough. The ground is now ploughed with 2 horses, in a chain plough made upon Small's construction. The horses are guided, and the plough directed by one man. Here may be one or two of the tenants who use 2 oxen and 2 horses in 1 plough, and one tenant who has 2 oxen without horses, in 1 or 2 of his ploughs. If it was proper for the writer of these facts to give his own opinion, he would be inclined to approve of and recommend the last practice, especially in large farms. Every tenant sows a considerable field of clover, in proportion to the extent of his farm, or the necessities of his stock. On every farm, turnips are raised in smaller or greater fields, as they are intended for the cows and young stock only, or for such as are fed for the knife. There is no great attention given to a peculiar breed of cattle in this district; because the cultivated lands are thought too valuable, and the weaker

and

and uncultivated, insufficient for raising cattle of bone. The Fife cattle, however, always bring good prices in the market; and I believe it will not be said that the cattle of this parish are inferior to those of the other parts of the country. Cabbages and greens are also planted in the fields, but in small quantities by the side of the turnip, to be used when frost renders the turnip more difficult to be obtained. Potatoes, that make so great a part of the food of the lower classes of society, are cultivated by every one who rents land, for the use of his family, horses, cows and hogs. They are in general used for the last 3 animals without boiling. The tenants give 10 yards square or 12 for planting a peck of potatoes to the manufacturers and other labouring people, for so many days work in harvest, or any other throng season; wisely thinking that this is preferable to money, as it procures them hands in the time of their need. Much useful information concerning the culture and preservation of this invaluable root has been lately obtained, by means of the benevolent exertions of the Board of Agriculture.

I know not if the following observations have been made. Many causes for the curle-top amongst potatoes have been assigned, that mankind might avoid this devourer of so valuable a part of their food. When that part of the potatoe is cut for a set which the former year adhered to its root, it invariably produces a curle-top. It would be of no small consequence, therefore, before the seed is cut into sets, that a careful hand should be employed to cut off this part of every potatoe, and keep it entirely separate from the seed. When there is too little of the potatoe left at the bottom of the eye, that is separated for a set, it has the same unhappy consequence. This year has led men of observation to conclude, that wet land produces the curle-top. There are two very long ridges in a field near this place, planted with the same culture,

manure

manure, and seed: the one ridge is rather lower and flatter than the other. In this ridge, there is not one plant of an hundred found. In the other ridge, the 4 rows lying nearest the furrow on each side of the ridge, are curle-tops, with very few exceptions; the 4 rows on the highest part of the ridge, are healthy vigorous plants. I know no way of accounting for this, but by saying that the excess of moisture has produced it.

There were in this district in 1792, more than 1559 cattle young and old, male and female. There were 420 horses of the above description, and of sheep, 1940. The tenants breed their own cows, and most of them their working horses. There are in this parish 7 threshing milns, and their number will soon be increased. One of these is set and kept in motion by water, a very considerable saving to the tenant; and the machine, one would think, must move more steadily, and with greater effect, than those worked with horses. Some indeed have made use of oxen and horses; but these animals have so different a movement, that the practice has not become general. It is to be hoped, that oxen will be trained for this useful instrument of husbandry; and there can be little doubt, that in some situations and circumstances, it might be worked by the force of wind. There are 4 meal milns in the district; one lint and barley mill, moved by one water wheel; and one belonging to a dyer for the purposes of his employment.

There are 3 bridges in the parish, all of them over the Multree burn; one of them giving passage to travellers from Cupar to the north, and the other to travellers from the north to St Andrews: one end of the Guard bridge rests on this parish; the other on the parish of St Andrews.

On this end of the bridge is erected the only toll-gate within the

the bounds of the diſtrict. There are 50 tenants in the pariſh. The extent of their farms is very different; from 10 to 500 acres. Thoſe of the laſt mentioned extent are in the eaſt part of the pariſh. The land lets at from 10s to 50s an acre, excepting thoſe extenſive farms in the eaſt part of the pariſh; which are rented at from L. 40 to between L. 60 and L. 70.

Heritors, Improvements, &c.—There are 16 heritors in the diſtrict, 14 of whom do not reſide; a very material loſs to the poor, and no ſmall diſadvantage to the inhabitants, as their reſidence would give real encouragement to the induſtrious, and a ſerious check to thoſe few who in every ſociety are inclined to be diſorderly in their manners and practice. In the year 1782, we received no aſſiſtance from the heritors for the ſupport of the poor, and were more than once obliged to borrow from the members of the Seſſion; being unwilling to diminiſh any little ſum we had been enabled in more plentiful years to lay up for the purpoſe of increaſing the poor's annual income. For ſome years paſt indeed the heritors have attended with a ſpirit of liberality to the neceſſities of the poor; and we cannot entertain a doubt, that their benevolence will always be in proportion to the circumſtances of the pariſh. On that part of the eſtate of Leuchars, purchaſed by the Hon. Robert Lindſay, containing 3736 acres, ſtands part of an old houſe, commonly called the caſtle of Leuchars, built upon a forced bank of earth, on the edge of a ſwamp, ſurrounded by a deep and broad moat, incloſing about 3 acres of ground. In the time of our forefathers, this muſt have been a place of defence, having no acceſs but by a narrow bridge, till the large drain was cut, which has rendered it acceſſible on all ſides up to the moat. There is a draw-well in the middle of the

the court, which, to the aſtoniſhment of thoſe who lived there ſome years ago, became dry when the water was let out of the moat, for the purpoſe of ſcouring it. The workmen came at laſt upon the mouth of a covered drain, which they found on a level with the bottom of the well; and upon going down into the well, they diſcovered the ſame drain open there; from which they were naturally led to think, that the inhabitants had been ſupplied with water from the moat without, when ſurrounded by an enemy.

On this eſtate, alſo are ſome fine old trees.

Mr Lindſay has planted 138 acres with various kinds of timber; the plantation is in the moſt thriving ſtate, and gives a moſt delightful reſt to the eye, where once there was nothing to be ſeen, but a moor producing ſome coarſe graſs, heath, and furze. The traveller too, is pleaſed with the variety of nature's luxuriant productions. Mr Lindſay has alſo incloſed ſeveral fields with ditch, hedge, and dyke; and hedge rows of trees. Theſe will in a ſhort time, ſhelter and beautify the diſtrict. In the meantime, they pleaſingly employ the imagination in anticipating what their maturity may produce. On the eſtate of Leuchars, have been built 5 farm ſteadings, ſuitable to, and convenient for the different farms, where the tenants are lodged, if not elegantly, yet with ſuitable conveniency. The proprietor has alſo feued ground to the manufacturers and others, for building a houſe, and a ſmall garden at the back of it, at the rate of L. 4 per acre. So that the village of Leuchars, in place of being literally the village built with turfs, is become a neat country village built with ſtones and mortar; the houſes at leaſt are commodious for manufacturers. There are more than 70 new houſes built in this village, within a few years; 8 of them have 2 floors, and 4 of them are covered with blue ſlates.

On

On the eſtate of Earl's-hall, belonging to Robert Bruce Henderſon, Eſq. Advocate, are a few old trees. On this eſtate is built one of the moſt extenſive farm ſteadings in the pariſh. Theſe two eſtates, once were in what is called run-rig, two ridges belonging to Leuchars, one to Earl's-hall. This mode of diviſion, while it may ſeem to ſecure to each proprietor his proportion of good and bad land, muſt be attended with the moſt unhappy effects, as it drags the wheels of improvement, and expoſes the labourers to no inconſiderable temptations.

On the eſtate of Pitcullo, belonging to Neil Ferguſon, Eſq. Advocate, are ſome very fine old timber, and ſeveral fine thriving clumps of young trees. Here are more incloſures, both with ſtones and lime, and a greater number of old hedges with rows of trees within, than on any eſtate in the diſtrict; here indeed were made the firſt improvements in agriculture and incloſing. On this eſtate alſo, are two ſubſtantial new farm tofts.

On the eſtate of Ardit, the property of John Anſtruther, Eſq. Advocate, are alſo to be ſeen ſome fine old trees, hedges and clumps riſing. Theſe two eſtates on the weſt ſide of the pariſh, as they riſe above the flat ground on the eaſt, afford an agreeable and pleaſing variety to the traveller, from Cupar to St Andrews, from Cupar to Dundee, or from either of theſe burghs to Cupar.

On the eſtate of Drone, belonging to Robert Meldrum Eſq. of Clayton, there are more than 20 acres planted; ſome 20, ſome 7 years old: and within theſe 5 or 6 years, about 10 acres were planted with great taſte, in different directions, from the houſe of Clayton, that will greatly beautify the ſituation of that building. Here alſo are two excellent farm ſteads. There are 8 acres planted on the eſtate of Pitlethie, belonging to Thomas Lawſon, Eſq.; beſides ſome old

timber. This eſtate is incloſed with ditch and hedge, and hedge rows of different ages, which both give beauty and warmth to the fields.

In the garden belonging to Pitlethie, once ſtood one of the hunting ſeats of James the VI. King of Scotland; which had been taken down to a little below the ſurface, and thus rendered inviſible. In digging this garden, the ſpade rung againſt a firm ſtone, and as ſtones are valuable here, upon removing the earth, the foundation of this hunting ſeat was diſcovered to a great depth and thickneſs. This was carefully raiſed, and a great part of Mr Lawſon's houſe and offices was built from this quarry. Here too, were found the Royal Arms of Scotland, cut in a ſtone, which is ſtill preſerved, being placed in the front of one of the houſes. In a field, near the houſe of Pitlethie, grows a venerable ſpreading thorn, where his Majeſty's hawks after their toils, were accuſtomed to refreſh themſelves through the night.

Sheughy-dyke, or Tentsmuirs, is a very large flat part of the diſtrict on the eaſt; about which many wonderful ſtories have been told, concerning the original inhabitants, and the peculiarity of their manners. After the moſt laborious enquiry, I find no reaſon to conclude, according to general report, that this part of the pariſh was peopled by the crews of a Daniſh fleet wrecked on the coaſt. I preſume, that the greateſt part of this flat, moory, benty, ſandy ground, has been left by the gradual retiring of the ſea. The ſea has been making a gradual retreat from that part of the pariſh, for many years paſt, and has left what ſeems to me ſtrong proofs of having once flowed and ebbed on thoſe grounds. The name ſeems to have been founded in that caution and œconomy with which men take poſſeſſion of property they are not ſure of holding; for when the people took their ſtation where the ſea formerly made her furrowed bed, they muſt have

have entertained a fear, that she would in some future storm, return and occupy those parts she had been accustomed to travel over. They did not at first therefore build houses, but erected tents on those parts that swelled a little above the surrounding flats; and to make the situation of their tents more comfortable and dry, they dug a sheugh or ditch, laying the sod, and casting the earth inwards; hence seems to be derived the name Sheughy-dyke. The tent erected in the middle gave rise to the other name Tents-moors.

When these moors have been opened by digging, there has been found in several places, a greater variety of shells, and fish-bones, than could be reasonably supposed to fall from the tables of those tent-dwelling inhabitants; and seem to lead the mind to conclude, that the aged and storm-struck inhabitants of the ocean being washed to the shore, obtained a grave by the next tide covering them with sand. There are likewise in these moors 4 long beautiful canals. Those who espouse the idea of peopling this part of the district with shipwrecked Danes, say, that these canals were formed by those foreigners, to defend themselves from the inhabitants of the surrounding country. I shall not say, how improbable this account appears. These canals seem to give no countenance to such an assertion. The most extended of them is not 2 miles long; and there is a great space of flat ground between the north end of them and the river Tay: the south end of them and the river Eden, consequently could form no defence. But, supposing they could have done so, would it not have been easy for the Scots, to sail from the Forth and Tay, disembark on their rear, while their land forces attacked them in front? These canals do not possess depth of water to render them the least defence. They seem to have been formed by the retiring ocean. There are 4 long, broad, beautiful, and almost parallel canals; called Canal-loch, White-myre,

Toremont, and Tents-muir, or Big waters. I obſerve this year, that the tenants are cutting drains, and letting the water out of theſe canals, to render the paſture more beneficial to their cattle. Strangers riding into this flat and not very fertile part of the pariſh, are ſurpriſed with finding this watery variety. I have ſeen their eyes return to it with pleaſure. In the ſummer, eſpecially if it be a dry one, the greateſt part of the water is carried away by the wind, and exhaled by the ſun. When in this ſtate, the canals furniſh a conſiderable quantity of coarſe graſs for the horſes and cattle. In this part of the diſtrict, there are cattle of a ſmall ſize reared, as may well be ſuppoſed, from the nature of their paſture; and a few working horſes of a diminutive breed, to labour the fields, of no great extent, kept in tillage. One great diſadvantage attending this ſandy part of the pariſh is, that after the fields are ſown and harrowed, if the wind blows ſtrong from the weſt, or ſouthweſt, the mould is blown off the ſeed, and not infrequently, a conſiderable part of the ſeed is blown from the ſown ground.

This ſoil is favourable to turnips, barley, and clover; good crops of oats and rye, are obtained here. The barley that grows in this ſandy ſoil, is heavier in proportion to an equal quantity of the ſame grain that is produced from good clay; the former being thinner in the huſk than the latter. The crops of peaſe, with a few beans among them, are not ſo ſure or productive.

There is in this part of the diſtrict, a ſalmon fiſhing of no inconſiderable value, oppoſite to a ſmall rivulet that runs into the ocean. From the entry of this rivulet, along the ſhore to the river Eden, the people ſometimes amuſe themſelves by fiſhing in the ſummer ſeaſon, in the following manner: Two of the people take a long net with weights upon the lower edge of it, go into the ſea as far as they may with ſafety, extend

tend their net, and drag it gently to the ſhore: In this way, they are ſometimes more, ſometimes leſs ſucceſsful in taking ſea trout, flounders, and other kinds of fiſh. They uſe the ſame mode of fiſhing alſo, in all the convenient pools in the river Eden, when it is low water. This they only do for amuſement, or when they long for fiſh. Is it not ſuppoſeable, that if theſe fiſhings were properly attended to, they might ſupply all the diſtrict with this wholeſome and agreeable article of food? There were two no way inconſiderable ſalmon fiſhings in the river, one immediately below the Guard bridge, the other oppoſite to the Coble-houſe; ſo called, from a ſmall boat being kept there, by which travellers from the ſouth to the north, and from the north to the ſouth, ſhortened their way by 2 miles, in place of going round by the Guard-bridge. But ſince the diſtillery was erected upon the ſouth ſide of the river at Kincaple, upon a bank ſlopping towards the Eden, both theſe fiſhings have been much injured by noxious water flowing from the diſtillery which runs into the river. The one at the Coble-houſe is entirely given up, and the other greatly decreaſed. When theſe were fiſhed, ſalmon was bought here at 1d$\frac{1}{4}$ and a 1d$\frac{1}{2}$ per pound Dutch. No ſalmon can be purchaſed now below 4d, or frequently 8d per pound. The Tents-moors, and many other farms in the pariſh, abound with grey rabbits. It is allowed on all hands, that the ſale of theſe animals with their furrs, yields more than L. 200 *per annum*. This part of the pariſh is now almoſt the only one where ſheep are reared. It has been thought that the true breed of Scots ſheep are to be found here: originally it might have been ſo; but they have paſſed through ſo many croſs breeds, that they are greatly degenerated; yet there remain ſome very fine-wooled ſheep, which, if properly attended to, might again rival their neighbours for the fineneſs of their fleeces. There has been a flock of 180 ſheep lately added to

the former ſtock, making in all 2120. It is only in this part of the diſtrict, the numbers are kept up. They have been decreaſing in the weſt part of the pariſh, for many years, and now are reduced to one flock. In this flock, are a great proportion of long tailed ſheep without horns; their paſture is higher, and of courſe, more dry and nouriſhing; the ſheep of a larger ſize, and finer wool. But in the eaſt part of the pariſh, the graſs is of a coarſer nature, and the ſoil more ſubject to retain water from its flatneſs; the ſheep of a ſmaller ſize, the 4 quarters weighing from 20 to 26 pounds. The time was, when every farm in the diſtrict, had a flock belonging to it; till the culture of clover and rye-graſs became general, and every ſpot of graſs land was made to feel the pulveriſing effects of the plough and harrow, when it was thought more profitable to part with theſe meek, harmleſs, and uſeful creatures.

In the Tents moors, ſmuggling was carried on to a great extent, by thoſe men in the neighbourhood, who were determined to riſk their fortune and character on the events of a day; for the inhabitants of this corner, were only aſſiſting in concealing and tranſporting their unlawful imports. By the wiſe and vigorous interpoſition of the directors of our juſtly admired government, ſmuggling, that illicit traffic big with many evils to mankind, is now happily unknown over all our coaſts. The inhabitants of this remote corner have been blamed for cruelty to ſhip-wrecked ſailors. If the charge be juſt, it does not belong to them alone; they are but a handful; the place is thinly peopled. In the days of old, it might have been ſo; but I have ſeen much attention and kindneſs ſhewn to ſuch unhappy ſailors as were caſt upon our ſhore. I truſt, and believe, that every future period ſhall be marked with an increaſe of brotherly love to the unfortunate.

Church,

Church, Stipend, School and Poor.—The church of Leuchars is placed nearly in the middle of the pariſh. It is an ancient loſty building, part of it very ancient, ſituated on a riſing ground. The building is more than ſufficient to hold the pariſhioners. There is no record by which the time of its erection can be fixed, and there is even no tradition on the ſubject. The church was once the only one in Scotland whoſe ſteeple aſcended on the eaſt end of the building. The time was, when our forefathers worſhipped here according to the forms of the Romiſh church. The door through which the organiſt entered to perform that part of the ſervice allotted to him, is ſtill ſeen in the eaſt gable of the church; and the place where the holy water was kept to purify the worſhippers on their entry into this temple is alſo viſible. The iron hook on which was ſuſpended the lever for weighing meal on the Lord's day, is batted into the key ſtone of an arch in the ſteeple; and in the place below, other merchant wares were ſold on that holy day.

A very little weſt of the preſent church, once ſtood a chapel called St Bernard's chapel; no remains of this monument of antiquity are now viſible, the ſtones of it having been uſed for common purpoſes. Round where it ſtood are to be ſeen many graves, conſtructed of 4, and ſome of 6 ſtones. Some of theſe graves have lately been looked into without affording any thing worthy of being recorded.

There is a moſt excellent well flowing with an abundant ſtream of ſoft water, near the weſt end of the village, (for the village is now extending weſtward,) called by the name of the Saint, to whom the chapel was no doubt conſecrated. A little north of the eaſt end of the village, to the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants, there is another well of equal excellence, called the Lady well, no doubt conſecrated to the Bleſſed Virgin. Tradition ſays, there once

ſtood

ſtood a houſe of worſhip on the eaſt ſide of the road, oppoſite to the houſe of Ardit; a ſmall field belonging to that eſtate retains the name of the glebe. There was alſo once a chapel and burying ground at eaſt Drone in this pariſh: The glebe is the name of a field there too, but the real hiſtory of theſe has not been tranſmitted to us. There is a tradition, according to the account by the Rev. Robert Dalgleiſh of Scots-craig, D. D. that the village of Ferry-Porton-craigs, before the 1606, belonged to this pariſh.

The ſtipend of this pariſh till the year 1791, was 64 bolls bear; 8 bolls wheat; 8 bolls oats; L. 330: 10: 9 Scots, and L. 36: 16: 8 Scots, vicarage, in which is included 40 merks for Communion elements. By an Interlocutor of the Court of Seſſion in 1791, their Lordſhips were pleaſed to give the following augmentation. Out of a part of the free tythes of the pariſh, 24 bolls bear; 24 bolls meal; and L. 42: 15: 11 Scots, in which is included, L. 42 Scots for Communion elements. The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper is annually diſpenſed in this congregation, in the beginning of March, and end of July, to between 700 and 800 communicants. The Kirk Seſſion received from the biſhop of St Andrew's, from funds belonging to himſelf, L. 28 Scots for Communion elements; the receipt of which, is entered for the laſt time in the Seſſion records, in the year 1728.

The legal ſalary of the pariſh ſchoolmaſter, is L. 6: 13: 4 ſterling. He has beſides, by a mortification, a houſe, garden, and croft; and 2 acres of light land, about half a mile northweſt of the village of Leuchars; and L. 4: 10: 6 ſter. left to thoſe who hold the office of ſchoolmaſter, by a late eminent and worthy clergyman of this pariſh, the Rev. Alexander Henderſon.

Leuchars is a pleaſant healthy country village, where boarders may be kept to advantage. The preſent incumbent, got

got a few ſoon after he was elected, and has room for a greater number. The number of ſcholars in the winter is from 80 to 100. The ſchool fees are as low as any in Scotland. Every man who is ſenſible of the importance of educating the youth, and underſtands the true intereſts of his country, muſt regret, that a body of men ſo reſpectable, and ſo extenſively uſeful as the pariſh-ſchoolmaſters are, ſhould have appointments ſo very unequal to their labour and to the ſituation of their families.

The poor in this pariſh are ſupported in their own houſes. The Kirk Seſſion are enabled to provide for them by the weekly collections at the church, and the money ariſing from the mort-cloths, which were originally purchaſed from the poor's funds; by the rent of 5 acres in the priory of St Andrews, purchaſed in the ſame way; and by the produce of a few ſeats in the church, yielding about L. 1 ſterling *per annum*. I believe there is no fund managed with ſuch care, or rendered ſo extenſively uſeful, as the little funds in the hands of the Kirk Seſſions of Scotland. We do not allow any of our poor to beg, though beggars pour in upon us from the north and ſouth, in greater numbers than the ſituations of men in moderate circumſtances can enable them to ſupply. There are laws to prevent this; but of what uſe are laws, if they are not put in execution? We have invariably found that thoſe who are moſt unwilling to accept of aid from the pariſh, are leaſt eaſily ſatisfied, when they have begun to receive it; whereas, thoſe who modeſtly intimate their wants and receive aſſiſtance, as ſoon as their circumſtances become leſs neceſſitous, with hearts overflowing with gratitude to Almighty God, inform us that they are able to ſupport themſelves, and thank the Seſſion for the kindneſs ſhewn them while it was neceſſary. Penſioners of this deſcription, we ſupply with the greateſt ſatisfaction.

Population, &c.—By the return to Dr Webſter in 1755, the numbers were 1691. By the laſt accurate ſurvey of the pariſh, the numbers were 1620. The decreaſe, which is 71, is to be accounted for in the following manner. There are 6 different farms in the pariſh, occupied by one tenant; formerly poſſeſſed by 3. There is indeed one farm divided into 3, but there are 3 other farms poſſeſſed by one tenant, which were formerly occupied by 2. Every plough in the pariſh ſome years ago, had a man to hold, and a youth to drive it; the labour of the farms was chiefly carried on by married ſervants whoſe families reſided on them. It is more the cuſtom now to perform the labour by unmarried ſervants who have a houſe near the tenants, in which they ſleep, and prepare their food. After they retire from work, they are free from the reſpect due to the eye of their maſter, and if inclined to wander, are at full liberty. I believe that theſe circumſtances are not favourable to morals, and that the union of ſmall into large farms, is unfriendly to population.

Abſtract of Baptiſms and Marriages from 1750, to 1759 incluſive, (there being no record of burials kept at that period;) and from 1780, to 1789 incluſive, to which the liſt of funerals within that period is added. No calculation can however be made of the number of deaths from the funerals; as many from neighbouring pariſhes are buried here, and many of the people of this pariſh in the neighbouring churchyards.

Baptiſms.

	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1750	47	24
1751	55	20
1752	46	23
1753	51	10
1754	49	14
1755	58	19
1756	34	13
1757	45	14
1758	42	10
1759	51	18
	478	165

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1780	39	19	35
1781	41	12	30
1782	46	14	24
1783	36	14	25
1784	43	6	21
1785	57	6	41
1786	46	11	14
1787	18	4	42
1788	42	10	26
1789	43	13	25
	411	109	283

There are of souls in the parish, below 10 years, 322; from 10 to 80, 1288; and from 80 to 90, 19.

There are in the pariſh, 22 Antiburgher, and 13 Burgher Seceders; 1 Berean, and 1 member of the Epiſcopal church; 37 Diſſenters in all. There are 13 wrights; 9 maſons; 9 ſmiths; 8 ſhoemakers; 6 taylors; 3 wheel-wrights, 2 of theſe are coopers; 1 ſurgeon; 1 brewer; 1 baker, and 1 bee-hive and baſket maker. In the village of Leuchars, are 7 ale-houſes, and there are 2 others in the diſtrict. Two ale-houſes in the village of Leuchars, are certainly ſufficient to ſupply all the inhabitants; and a greater number tends very much to deſtroy the morals, and impair the health of the inhabitants. There are 90 looms in the pariſh, 34 of theſe in the village of Leuchars. The weavers are employed in what is called houſehold work of various kinds; but chiefly in brown linens, ſingle and double ſail cloth, which they weave for the Dundee merchants. Several of them buy yarn, weave it, and ſell the webs to merchants in Dundee and Cupar. This kind of manufacture is increaſing, and it is thought will increaſe. There is one of the weavers famous for working all kinds of damaſk, and other table linens. It is thought the population will ſoon riſe above the return made to Dr Webſter: there are 10 new houſes built in the village of Leuchars this ſummer, to be inhabited at Martinmaſs next. A great ſpirit for building has diſcovered itſelf for ſeveral years paſt, eſpecially in the village: though building is carried on at a great expence, free ſtones have not been found in the diſtrict, except on the ſouthweſt, by the ſide of the river Eden, below a moſt valuable ſurface: The proprietors are unwilling to break more of it than what is abſolutely neceſſary for their own uſe, and the uſe of their farms. The cart load of free ſtones coſts 2s, the driving and toll, 3d. On the weſt ſide of the pariſh which is hilly, there are inexhauſtible fields of fine hard blue whin ſtones; theſe coſt 1s for driving the cart load, and 4d for quarrying. From the top of Lucklaw-hill, part of which

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is in this diſtrict, there is a moſt extenſive and delightful proſpect.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—It is no ſmall advantage to this diſtrict, that the river Eden is navigable nearly to what is called the Inner-bridge; a little below which with the concurrence and aſſiſtance of ſome of the heritors, the tenants have built upon the north bank of the Mulltree-burn, commonly called Mothry water, a wall perpendicular on the ſide of the water, and have filled up the ground behind the wall in ſuch a manner, as to make it eaſy for carts to approach the wall where they may load and unload ſmall veſſels: This gives opportunity of importing what the inhabitants ſtand in need of, and exporting whatever they can ſpare. Carriers from St Andrews to Dundee paſs and repaſs twice every week through the village of Leuchars. Carriers from all the towns of the ſouth coaſt, from Crail to the Ely, paſs once in 14 days; perhaps oftener in ſummer. Carriers from Dundee and St Andrews to Edinburgh, going through Cupar the county town, paſs within a mile of the village. Thus, an eaſy and regular intercourſe is maintained between all thoſe diſtant places, and what we wiſh to ſend, or deſire to have from them, is conveyed at the ordinary expence of carriage, according to the weight.

The inhabitants of this diſtrict derive no ſmall advantage from the ſhell-fiſh in the river Eden. They gather cockles and muſcles in their different ſeaſons, ſometimes eat them by themſelves, ſometimes prepare them with potatoes, or onions; and the high flavoured juice that is obtained from the fiſhes in the boiling with a little ſeaſoning, makes a truly wholeſome and delicious meal.

There was eſtabliſhed by mutual conſent, in the year 1792, a ſociety calling themſelves the Brotherly Society of ſupport,

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in and about Leuchars, and members from the neighbouring pariſhes are admitted. The laws of the ſociety are pious, benevolent, and well meant. Every member on his admiſſion pays 2s 6d ſter. and 8d quarterly, or 2s 6d annually. The intention of the fund is to relieve the members when under ſickneſs or the infirmities of old age, or the widows and children of deceaſed members; who, it is propoſed, are to receive 3s 6d weekly, or if a nurſe ſhould be neceſſary, 4s 6d. If any of the members die whoſe ſurviving relations are unable to defray their funeral expences, they are to receive L. 1 : 5 for that purpoſe. (It is ſubmitted, whether ſocieties of this nature in different parts of the country, may not be uſeful.) Their funds alſo enable them to buy quantities of meal, coals, or any other neceſſary article to divide amongſt them. There are 2 fairs held in Leuchars, the one on the ſecond Wedneſday of April old ſtyle, for the ſale of cattle, ſheep, lint-ſeed, ſhoes, and all other kinds of merchant goods, the other on the third Friday of October, old ſtyle. The pit coal is at a great diſtance, and from the throng in the ſummer ſeaſon, the fetching one cart containing 5 load, coſts 5s 2d½, and is the work of a long day for one man and 2 horſes. The proprietors of coal, are threatening to raiſe the price.

Diſeaſes.—Epidemical diſeaſes are not known in this diſtrict, ſince the great drain was cut. I have known 3 perſons within theſe 20 years, affected with St Vitus's dance to a very high degree. It was deſired that a fiddle ſhould be played on in the preſence of the affected perſon. It was not regular muſic that gave relief, but the ſtriking of certain ſtrings, which the perſon under agitation, deſired ſhould be ſtruck again. The effect was aſtoniſhing; the perſon affected, became quiet, ſat down, and in a little, aſked to be put

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to bed, but ſtill called for the perſon to play, till the feelings that produced the agitation were abated.

Some years ago, the people in this pariſh profeſſed a religious ſcruple againſt innoculating their children. They are now come to look upon it as a religious duty to adopt the practice; and not a few of them, when a lancet loaded with matter was procured for them, innoculated their own children. If the ſcruple could be got over throughout all parts of the country, how many lives would it ſave, how many ſore hearts to parents would it be the means under God of preventing?

Character of the People.—They are in general ſober and induſtrious; regular attendants upon Divine worſhip on the Lord's day; and grateful to a kind providence for the bleſſings they enjoy. They are remarkably ſteady in their attachments, in their loyalty to Our Gracious Sovereign and happy Conſtitution: 14 from this diſtrict entered to ſerve His Majeſty when a late call for ſailors was made through the counties.—With what pleaſure do I relate theſe facts, after having read with horror in the Advertiſer, for Tueſday the 3d November 1795, the wicked and treaſonable attack made upon the ſacred perſon of George the III. Thanks and praiſe with my whole heart do I offer to the providence of God, for preſerving the life of the beſt of Kings, who has ever been the father of his people; and pray moſt fervently, that the crown may long, very long flouriſh on his ſacred head, until it pleaſe the unerring Diſpoſer of all events, to crown Our Gracious King with a crown that ſhall for ever flouriſh in glory, and tranſfer his earthly crown to the head of His Royal Highneſs George Prince of Wales.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF MARY-KIRK.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRYMER.

Antient and Modern Name.—Situation, and Extent.

THE antient name of this pariſh was Aberluthnot, or as it is more commonly expreſſed in ancient records, Aberluthnet. This name it received early, but at what particular period, is not now known. It ſeems, however, to be of Gaelic etymology, and to bear an alluſion to the ſituation of the village in the center of which the church ſtands; to the ſmall rivulet that paſſes by, and the lands that ſurround it; or perhaps ſome memorable event in this particular place, now buried in oblivion, has introduced the name, and communicated it to the church and pariſh. The eſtate of Kirktown-hill, which is now ſcarcely known by any other name, was formerly called the Kirk-lands of Aberluthnet, as appears by a charter for theſe lands, granted by Cardinal Beaton, to David Barclay of Mathers, anno 1540, and by another of confirmation from Queen Mary, anno 1543, by which were conveyed to him alſo, all the lands and acres of the village of Aberluthnet, the burgh of

of barony, weekly market, and yearly fair, together with the Mill, Mill-lands, and Bourn of Aberluthnot, lying on the banks of the North-Eſk river. Before the Reformation, and in honour of the Virgin Mary, the pariſh obtained a change of name, from Aberluthnot, to Mary-kirk, which it now bears. This is evident from the above-mentioned charter, in which there is not the leaſt mention of Mary-kirk. It is bounded on the ſouth by the North-Eſk river, which ſeparates it from the county of Angus, and pariſh of Loggie-Pert; on the eaſt and northeaſt, by St Cyrus, Garvock, and Laurence-kirk; on the north and northweſt, by Fordoun and Fetter-cairn. It is about 36° 45′ north latitude, and 2° 10′ weſt longitude. Agreeable to Mr Garden's map and meaſurement of the county, anno 1774, the form of the pariſh is irregular. It comprehends 8191 Scots acres*, and its length and breadth are nearly equal. It is at the diſtance of 4 Scots miles from Montroſe, and 6 from Brechin,—placed at the ſouth extremity of an extenſive plain, generally known by the How, or hollow lands, of the Mearns; and is ſo exceedingly flat and level, that you ſeem, almoſt in every direction, gradually to deſcend as you approach the river. The only hills or eminencies in this pariſh that ſeem greatly to variegate the ſcene are Kirktown-hill and Balmaleedie, which run, the one behind the other, in a northeaſt direction, about 2 miles. Their ſouth extremities are at a little diſtance from the village of Mary-kirk; and as the diſtance is increaſed, they advance by a gradual elevation, until they terminate all at once by a ſudden ſlope, in what is called the Wide Open. This ſeparates them from the Garvock-hills, which extend ſeveral miles in the ſame courſe, and are a boundary to the pariſh.

* Inſtead of 8191 Scots acres, Mr Garden ſhould have made it 7591, having meaſured 600 acres belonging to another pariſh.

Village of Mary-kirk.—Near the banks of the North-Eſk river, and ſomewhat more than half way, on the road leading from Montroſe to Laurence-kirk, lies the village of Mary-kirk; to and from which the traveller is delighted with the agreeable appearance of the country. To the north and northweſt, at the diſtance of ſometimes 7 or 8, 9 or 10 miles, he beholds the majeſtic appearance of the Grampian mountains, darting their lofty heads to the clouds. In an almoſt oppoſite direction, and bounding the pariſh, lie the hills of Canterland, Balmaleedie, Kirktown-hill, and Garvock; though not ſo ſtately as the former, yet as they are cultivated to the tops, they pleaſe the eye, and appear as ſo many ſafeguards, appointed by providence, to ſhelter the vallies below from the frequent ſtorms that come with great violence from the eaſt and northeaſt. Here the number of gentlemen's ſeats, the variety of woods and lawns, the grateful fertility of the fields, and the beautiful meanders of the river, together with the extenſiveneſs of the proſpect, and the champaign appearance of the country, all invite the ſtranger to travel from Montroſe to the north in this road, rather than in any other. The village itſelf, has indeed no other ornaments than its local ſituation, its ſerene air, its ſalubrious and refreſhing ſprings, and pleaſant fields, to recommend it. It has not now, nor does it appear to have had, in the memory of the oldeſt man alive in the pariſh, any weekly market or annual fair. The number of the inhabitants it contains is 208, and their dwelling houſes are 49. It is ſupplied with mechanics almoſt of every denomination, except weavers and bakers. Beſides, there are 3 ſhop-keepers who ſell moſt things needful in the place; and for the accommodation of travellers, there are 2 inns or public-houſes; the houſes in general are in a ſtate of decay, the ſtreet or ſtreets narrow and irregular. There are indeed a few new houſes lately built; which, though they may be convenient to the

poſſeſſors, do not appear to add to the regularity of the place; it is therefore hoped, that the proprietor of the village, who has already been planning out a broader ſtreet, will take care that a new one be rebuilt after a more approved model; and if a bridge over the North-Eſk river at Mary-kirk, which is now in contemplation, and to which a ſubſcription is already opened, ſhould take place, it would not only be an advantage to the village, but to the country in general. To promote this, not a few of the farmers and inhabitants for a good many miles through the Mearns, have already ſubſcribed; and if the heritors of this pariſh, and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood who have an intereſt in it, would with their accuſtomed public ſpirit, lend their helping hand, this neceſſary and uſeful work could not fail to be ſoon and eaſily accompliſhed. This is the more to be wiſhed, as within a few years, 2 perſons have loſt their lives at the Ford, and Ferry-boat; and many other individuals, by not being acquainted with the proper entry to the Ford, or by the inattention or ignorance of ſome drivers of carriages, have been expoſed to the moſt imminent danger. It is to be obſerved, that the North-Eſk, oft times in rapid torrents, not only deſcends the Grampian hills, overtops its banks, and inundates the valleys below, but with impetuous violence ſweeps every thing before it; ſo that ſtrangers ought by no means, to enter raſhly into this river.

Eccleſiaſtical Eſtate.—The parochial church, which is ill ſituated in the middle of the village, has long been in a ſtate of decay, and bears the marks of great antiquity. It is 96 feet long, and 17 broad. Its walls are much ſunk in the earth, and the floor and area are in different places, at leaſt 4 feet below the burial ground on the outſide of the wall. There is an aile, on the ſouth wall, oppoſite to the pulpit where

the Strachans, Forbeſſes, and Foulertons, who were proprietors of Thornton, have been buried. In this aile, built anno 1615, there is a ſtately monument to the memory of D. Elizabeth Forbes, lady of Thornton; and of Sir James Strachan Bart. her huſband. Its pillars, images, and other devices, were finely cut, elegantly ornamented, and highly finiſhed. Near the centre of this monument is a Latin inſcription, but this is ſo defaced by age, and by a burning, occaſioned by the Covenanters, about the time of the Revolution, that it is not now legible. On the ceiling of this aile, which is of oak, there is a numerous liſt of honourable and ancient families, (with their coats of arms beautifully painted,) who were connected with the family of Sir James Strachan of Thornton. In the eaſt corner of this aile, there is a Font; and on the north-eaſt wall of the church, 2 preſſes near to each other, in which were preſerved the ſacred utenſils. At the entry, ly the ſtocks, almoſt conſumed by age; and on the outſide of the church, ſtrongly fixed to the wall, are the Joggs*. Near the gate of the church-yard ſtands a ſtone, and tradition ſays, this was the croſs where the weekly market ſtood. About 6 years ago the church received a new roof. By taking down the old one, which was oak, there was deſtroyed a ceiling of the ſame wood, on which was beautifully carved a croſs, a crown, St Peter's keys, the armorials of biſhop Elphingſtone, and Dunbar, and ſeveral other *eminent* biſhops. There was alſo removed from the church an eſcutcheon of the family of Lord Halkerton, thought to be a fine painting. On the wall

* Theſe were never appropriated by the church, as inſtruments of puniſhment and diſgrace; but were made uſe of, when the weekly market and annual fair ſtood, to confine and puniſh thoſe who had broken the peace, or uſed too much freedom with the property of others. The ſtocks were uſed for the feet, and the joggs for the neck of the offender, in which he was confined, at leaſt, during the time of the fair.

wall near the pulpit, there is a monument, not much ornamented, erected by Mr William Rait, in honour of his father and mother. On it is the following Latin inſcription.

"Hic in Domino requieſcunt parentes mei chariſſimi, M. "Jacobus Raitus, paſtor vere Evangelicus, qui præfuit huic "eccleſiæ, 25 annis, fideliter, non ſine magno emolumento; "tunc vitam cum morte commutavit, calend. Maii, anno "1642, ætatis ſuæ 59; et dilectiſſima ejus conjux, Iſabella "Blackburne, quæ obiit 19th Januarii, anno 1637, ætatis "ſuæ 32.

"Parentavit Filius, W. R."

On the ſame wall, on the other ſide of, and a little more removed from the pulpit, is a tomb, the burial place of the Barclays of Johnſton and Balmakewan; and the only thing that can be ſaid of it, is, that it has a too near communication with the church, has its entry through it, and is only ſeparated from it, by an old door. Many of the inhabitants of the pariſh, as well as the heritors, claim the right of burial in the floor of the church; and it would be accounted no leſs unjuſt and cruel to deprive them of this right, than of an inheritance left them by their fathers. Beſides the eſtabliſhed church, there are 3 different places of worſhip in the pariſh. In Luthermoor, there is one for the Seceders. At Sauchie burn, another for the Bereans; and in the village of Mary-kirk, a third for the Independants; all which, are tolerably decent, and abundantly ſufficient to contain the congregations. To theſe places, the diſſenters above-named, in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, reſort. Some years ago, there was in Luthermoor, a chapel for the Scots Epiſcopalians, but of late the chapel and ground belonging to it have been ſold off; and the congregation, who were a peaceable,

peaceable, and decent, aſſembly, have removed to Laurence-kirk, where they have an elegant and ſtately place of worſhip, which was ſet on foot, and endowed by Lord Gardenſton. About 24 years ago, and for ſeveral years after, a very great alienation of affection, and conſequently a departure from the true ſpirit of Chriſtianity took place. Since that time it is happily removed, by the increaſing moderation of the ſeveral teachers of religion. The tide of paſſion and prejudice, which formerly agitated the minds of many, is entirely gone; and a perfect harmony, and good underſtanding among thoſe who are candidates for the ſame happineſs, and profeſſors of the ſame religion, (though they may differ a little in their ſentiments of it,) ſeem now to have ſucceeded.

Manſe.—The manſe lies ſouth of the church, in a hollow below it, and ſome of the offices form a part of the churchyard wall; and may be ſaid to be the only part of it now ſtanding. The manſe was built in 1732, and received reparations in 1775, that produced no great advantage to the heritors or miniſter; and ſince that time, he has been put to conſiderable expence to render it habitable. At preſent it ſtands in great need of being repaired. It is hoped, however, that the heritors, who are all of them men of opulence, public ſpirit, juſtice and humanity, will ſpeedily caſt an eye to the church, the manſe, and offices. The preſent incumbent is the third Preſbyterian miniſter ſince the Revolution. He was ſettled here in 1771, by a preſentation from his father, who bought the patronage from the maſters of the King's College at Aberdeen, about the year 1765; who at the ſame time ſold off all their other patronages. The patron is Major Garden, who ſucceeded to all Lord Gardenſton's eſtates, in this, and the pariſh of Laurence-kirk; and conſequently

quently to the patronage, which was ſold by the incumbent to his Lordſhip, not long before his death.

Glebe.—The glebe conſiſts of a little more than 4 acres, at a conſiderable diſtance from the manſe. The ſtipend of Mary-kirk from 1650, to 1794, was annually 4 chalders of victual, and L. 29: 3:4 ſterling in money. As the maſters of King's College, Old Aberdeen, claim the teinds of the pariſh, a proceſs of augmentation was commenced againſt them, in the Court of Teinds, in 1788, which they defended with great obſtinacy, until 1794, when the miniſter obtained from the Lords of Council and Seſſion, the Commiſſioners of Teinds, a decreet of modification and locality, for an augmentation to his ſtipend, of 3 chalders of victual, $\frac{1}{4}$ bear, $\frac{3}{4}$ meal, and L. 10 Scots, for Communion elements. But this augmentation, moderate indeed as it is, his opponents ſeem to quarrel with; and threaten an appeal to the Houſe of Peers. They draw from this pariſh, by their converſion of victual, from the heritors, upwards of L. 173 ſterling, which is more than twice the miniſter's old and new ſtipend put together.

School.—About 7 years ago, there was a new ſchool and ſchool-houſe erected by the heritors; the old ſchool being ruinous and ill-placed, above the arch of the tomb of Johnſton. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 10: 10 ſterling, and L. 2: 8 as clerk to the Kirk Seſſion, and Caldham's fund, &c. His other perquiſites as ſchoolmaſter are very inconſiderable; for proclamations, 2s 6d; baptiſms, 10d; teaching Engliſh by the quarter, 1s 6d; Arithmetic, 2s; Latin, 2s 6d. In ſummer there are but few ſcholars, in winter, the number may be about 30. Beſides, there are 2 other ſchoolmaſters in the pariſh, who teach Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic; but

but have no ſalary, and are paid only by thoſe who employ them.

Poor.—The number of poor frequently increaſes and diminiſhes; but at preſent, there are 25 upon the poor's liſt. A good many years ago, Robert Perie, a reſpectable farmer, born in this pariſh bequeathed 400 merks Scots to the poor of this pariſh. Some ſmall legacies, donations, and ſavings, given and eſtabliſhed, when the neceſſaries of life were much cheaper than at preſent, have made up L. 57 ſterling, which, added to Perie's fund, amounts to L. 79:4:5¼ ſter. Beſides, there are L. 3000 merks Scots, left by Mr George Keith, formerly proprietor of Caldham, for pious uſes, and to keep in repair, a bridge over Luther-water at Caldham; the intereſt of which is generally employed in ſmall donations to decayed inhabitants, by an application having been made to the heritors. The weekly collections are at an average about 5s, and with about L. 3 ſterling, collected when the ſacrament is diſpenſed, will amount to L. 16 ſter. *per annum.* There is a gallery built in the church, for the benefit of the poor, which yields little above L. 1 ſter. The greateſt part of the weekly collections are divided among the moſt neceſſitous poor every week, immediately after diſmiſſing the congregation; and others are occaſionally ſupplied with what is over. The money derived from the 2 mort-cloths amounts to very little. There are generally no penalties given by church delinquents; for they take care to get themſelves nooſed ſoon enough to prevent it; and we do not wiſh for money in this way to ſupport the poor, if it could poſſibly be obtained any other way more honourable and humane. Conſidering the badneſs of the church, it is amazing that the miniſter has any one to hear him on the Sunday, but the ſchoolmaſter, and the kirk officer, who are obliged to attend,

by

by virtue of their reſpective offices; or that there ſhould be any thing ſtated for weekly collections.

Air, Climate.—The air here is tolerably dry, mild and temperate, and the climate ſalubrious. Though the ground is very flat and level, yet there are no ſtationary diſeaſes occaſioned by noxious vapours, ariſing from ſtagnated waters. We have no lakes; no moſſes; or if in former times there have been any, they are now all drained and exhauſted. In almoſt every part of the pariſh there are rivers, rivulets, and brooks to carry off the rains that ly upon the ground, together with the waters emitted from the ſprings. The high mountains at a diſtance, and the lower hills that bound us on the northeaſt, attract the clouds above, before and behind us. Did the rains that fall upon them, deſcend ſo frequently upon our hollow grounds, they would render our lives comfortleſs, and our fields pools of water. We ſometimes in what we think dry weather, envy our neighbours that live neareſt the hills, for the ſeaſonable and refreſhing ſhowers we ſee them receive: but, perhaps, had we more diſcernment, we would greatly rejoice that they have not yet come to us, as our ground is not fit to receive them. When epidemic diſtempers invade any of the neighbouring pariſhes, and now and then cut off ſeveral of the inhabitants, they ſeldom penetrate our boundary; or if they do, their attacks are leſs violent and deſtructive. In ſhort, the climate here is ſo good, that in ſome years, there have not been above 7 or 8 perſons buried in this church-yard; and moſt of theſe old people, worn out by age and infirmities. Inoculation does not univerſally prevail, though ſeveral attempts have been made to render it general; yet very few children die of the ſmall-pox. Though there are not many inſtances of great longevity, yet there are ſeveral perſons now alive, above 80. About 3 years ago, a

man died here aged 103 years. An inſtance of the mildneſs of the climate is apparent from the little quantity of ſnow that commonly falls here, and from its ſhort continuance on the ground. In 1782, while the Grampian hills were deeply covered with ſnow, for the ſpace of 8 or 10 days, the people in this neighbourhood were buſily employed in cutting down, and gathering their corns; and it is to be obſerved, that it was in a great meaſure owing to this very circumſtance, that many poor individuals were kept alive. Add to this, that the bounty of government, and the great care taken by the heritors, to keep a good part of their grain for the conſumption of the pariſh, and their timely interpoſition in authoriſing the Kirk Seſſion, from the poor's funds, to buy up and ſell at an under price, (not above 1s the peck,) what victual the moſt neceſſitous of the inhabitants needed, put this pariſh (ill as the times were), in a much better ſituation than moſt of the neighbouring pariſhes.

Population.—The amount of Dr Webſter's liſt of inhabitants in 1755, was 1280.

In 1774, Mr Garden ſtated, probably with leſs accuracy, the number of ſouls to be 1080; ſince that time, it is evident, they have been increaſing conſiderably, by the liſt that is hereto ſubjoined. The increaſe can eaſily be accounted for, by aſſerting, that there were not ſo many families in Luthermoor then, as there are at preſent. At that time, there were only a few houſes in it, belonging to a ſmall number of feuars; but now it is preſumed, there are more families ſcattered over it, than there are families in the village of Mary-kirk. It was then only a moor, all covered over with heath; but now, moſt part of it, is either corn ground, or planted with trees: and although the ſoil is cold, ſpungy, and wet, yet by trenching, draining, incloſing, and planting

trees,

trees, the place is not only rendered pleaſant to the eye, but even beneficial and friendly to the health of the inhabitants. Several other houſes have been built in the pariſh ſince that period. We cannot give an exact liſt of baptiſms, as many parents are not fond of the expence of enrolling their children's names in the liſt of inhabitants; and for being married, and having a poor friend departed this life, they think, they ſhould rather receive ſome reward and compenſation, than pay a penalty. The miniſter made out an exact liſt in 1793, when the members amounted to 1481, by which it appears that there is an increaſe from Mr Garden's number in 74, of 401; and from Dr Webſter's in 1755, (which was probably nearer the truth,) of 201.

But the ſtate of the population will be better underſtood by the following Table.

Population Table of the Pariſh of Mary-kirk.

Population in 1793,—1481.

Males below 10,—	182	Females below 10,—	153
From 10 to 20,—	151	From 10 to 20,—	140
From 20 to 30,—	108	From 20 to 30,—	136
From 30 to 40,—	85	From 30 to 40,—	124
From 40 to 50,—	73	From 40 to 50,—	65
From 50 to 60,—	57	From 50 to 60,—	67
From 60 to 70,—	47	From 60 to 70,—	49
From 70 to 80,—	14	From 70 to 80,—	19
From 80 to 86,—	7	From 80 to 86,—	4
	724		757 Tot. 1481

By this Table, it appears that the Females exceed the Males by 33. There are 344 habitable houſes in the pariſh.

Liſt

List of the Designations of Heads of Families and Mechanics.

Ministers	4	Turners	3
Schoolmasters	3	Flax-dressers	3
Farmers	68	Gardiners	6
Millars	6	Dysters	2
Merchants	5	Small tenants and widows	98
Joiners, cart, and plough-wrights	8	*Dissenters.*	
Shoemakers	10	Scots Episcopals	18
Blacksmiths	8	Independants	10
Married servants	88	Bereans and Seceders not exactly known, but supposed not to exceed	130
Masons	12		
Taylors	7		
Weavers	8		
Inn and public house-keepers	5		

N. B. The other inhabitants are of the Established church.

Proprietors, Rents.—The number of heritors in the parish is 10, and only one at present resides in it. The valued rent is L. 6060 Scots; the real rent is nearly L. 3300 sterling. In the course of 20 years, the parish has increased much in its rise of rents, improvement, and cultivation. During this short period, all the estates in it have been sold, except 3, to new proprietors; and a good many of the farms have got new tenants. The same causes may have concurred to effectuate these alterations here, which have taken place in other parishes of Scotland. The estates were bought at a time when there was no demand for land; but were they now in the market, they certainly would sell at a much higher price.

Heritors.

Heritors.	*Eſtates.*
Antony Lord Halkerton, Earl of Kintore, - -	Inglismaldie, Newton, Balmaleedie.
† Lord Arbuthnot, -	Hatton.
Sir Alexander Ramſay, - -	E. and W. Pitgarvies, Drumly-gair, Hoſpital, Shiells.
† Sir John Wiſhart Belches,	Goſeſſie.
† Thomas Gillies, Eſqr;	Balmakewan, Caldhame.
† Major Garden, -	Thornton, Gallow-hillock.
William Adams, Eſqr;	New Thornton.
† Alexander Smith, Eſqr;	Balmakellie.
† Alexander Gardener, Eſqr;	Kirktown-hill.
† Patrick Cruikſhank, Eſqr;	Balmano.

The new Heritors are marked thus †.

Soil.—The ſoil here, as in all other pariſhes, is various. The lands that ly neareſt the banks of the North-Eſk, on a dry bottom, are eſteemed beſt; and are ſure, almoſt in every ſeaſon, to produce the earlieſt crops. In ſome places, the ſoil is light, and much inclined to the nature of ſand. In other places, bordering on the river, it is deep and fertile; and has much the appearance of an improved loam. In the north and northweſt part of the pariſh, it is mooriſh, and has a cold till, and clay bottom; which in many places, ly 8 or 10 inches below the ſurface. But in the northeaſt, on the ſkirts of the hills, and in the vallies below, it is a deep clay, which, when ſufficiently drained, manured, and cultivated, will produce very good crops of wheat and barley. The center of the pariſh, in different places, partakes of the nature of one or other of theſe ſoils; and in the proper cultivation

tion of which the farmer is ſure to reap the pleaſure and advantage *.

Cultivation.—Agriculture here, within the courſe of 25 years, has experienced a very great change; and is now arrived at no ſmall degree of perfection. It is generally owing more to want of money than ſkill, that farmers do not raiſe good crops, and always adapt their crops, to the nature, ſituation, and improvement of the ſoil. The preſent mode of farming, and ſucceſſion of crops, vary according to the nature of the ſoil, the taſte and capacity of the farmer. Here they generally ſow wheat and muſhlie, but more of barley, Cheſter bear, oats, and peaſe: nor do they neglect the culture of turnips; and if the ſoil be ſufficiently dry, they are ſure to increaſe

* The great variety of ſoils that appear in different places of this pariſh, and not only in the ſame farm, but in the ſame field, might be rendered by much labour and induſtry, of the greateſt advantage to the cultivator; as they are manifeſtly adapted to the great variety of ſeeds that are, and ought to be ſown:—ſome of which, require a light, others a groſs earth, or an intermediate ſoil:—ſome are indeed ſo ſandy and light, that all the juices which are lodged in them by the air, immediately evaporate; and the corn that requires a ſtrong hutriment, could never ſubſiſt in ſuch a ſituation. To remedy which, an intermixture of clay or rich earth, is abſolutely neceſſary. On the contrary, there are other ſoils ſo unpleaſant, ſo tough and clayey, that ſcarce any ſeed can penetrate through them. To remedy this, much ploughing and draining, ſand and lime, and a compoſt of dung, with earth of a contrary nature, will operate above deſcription. There are others again, that preſerve a medium between theſe two extremes, and are qualified for different productions, as they more or leſs correſpond to the nature of ſand or clay. Wheat, for inſtance, in this country, never thrives but in a rich and humid ſoil, which is very fat and marſhy; and barley, Cheſter bear, and oats, though they delight in a ſandy ſoil, yet they never fail to proſper in the richeſt; if ſufficiently covered over, with well pulverized earth, in a dry ſeaſon.

increaſe the quantity. One fourth of a farm is commonly ſown with graſs ſeeds, and laid out for hay and paſture. Another fourth conſiſts of ſummer fallow, and green crops; ſuch as turnips, muſhlie, peaſe, and potatoes. The other half of the farm is ſown with corn in any mode that may appear moſt beneficial to the farmer. Little lintſeed is ſown except for family uſe, unleſs the farmers mean to have wheat after it; and, in that caſe, they dung and lime well. In preparing for any crop that has a ſoil with a wet bottom, they think it neceſſary to drain it by every poſſible means; ſo that any water iſſuing from the ground, or rain water on the ſurface, may gently run off with the leaſt damage to the ſoil or manure. In almoſt every farm, there are to be found all the neceſſary and modern implements of huſbandry, ſuch as different ploughs for light and deep ſoil, carts proper for victual, dung, ſtones, lime and wood,—drag and light harrows, rollers, fanners, &c. No lime-ſtone quarries have as yet been diſcovered. Lime is to be procured at the diſtance of 4 or 5 miles; but moſt people bring it from a greater diſtance, from eaſt Mathers, which is about 7 or 8 miles; the price is the ſame, 1s 10d per boll, lime-ſhells; but they think it of a preferable quality. The farmers have ſucceeded well in their attempts to improve the breed of work horſes, with which they not only ſupply themſelves, but are enabled to bring what they do not ſtand in need of to market: but the breed of black cattle has been leſs the object of their attention; and the reaſon they give for it is, that weighty cattle deſtroy their graſs fields, much more than ſmall cattle; ſheep are entirely gone, unleſs a few fed and ſold to the butcher, or kept for family uſe. The farms are properly ſtocked with black cattle, in proportion to the extent of each farm. Part of the rent is commonly paid in victual. Services are ſometimes contracted for in the leaſes, but are not rigidly exacted. Many of the

tenants, in their leaſes, are bound to carry all their grindable corn to ſome particular mill, and to pay certain different rates for grinding it, viz. a boll for 16, 21, 24 bolls. The farmer, or the mill-maſter on that account, pays to the heritor a high rent for his mill, and the other tenants ſtrive to have as little grindable corn as poſſible. By this means, he is injured, and they complain that they are not allowed to grind at any mill what quantity of victual they pleaſe. This has been the occaſion of very ſerious conteſts before the Civil Court; both diſagreeing about, and explaining in their own way, the terms of the contract. Formerly, the tenants ploughed with oxen, as well as horſes; but now the former are entirely laid aſide, unleſs in a few farms, where they occaſionally employ them in the plough, wain, or drag-harrow. The farmers pay for their land in this pariſh, from 5s, 10s, 12s, 15s, to 25s, 30s, and 40s, per acre; but the laſt high prices are only given about Mary-kirk, by thoſe who have other employments beſides their farm, or on account of an inn, a meal and barley mill. There are 6 mills in the pariſh; 3 on Luther-water, and 3 on the North Eſk. Two of them have all the machinery neceſſary for barley. We have no manufactures of any kind; but we expect, that when the bridge is erected, we ſhall have every thing ſet to right; and ſtrong motives to excite our induſtry. The tenants have incloſed very little of their farms, unleſs here and there a field or two for their own accommodation and convenience. And the reaſon they give is, that they have ſhort leaſes, many of them not above 19 years; for this is the longeſt period now commonly given. The heritors have all the grounds ſurrounding their manſion houſes regularly and neatly incloſed, with a ſtone or earth dyke, ditch, and quick ſet hedge; and the proprietor of Balmakewan has lately ſurrounded all his farm with an earth and ſtone dyke; but the fields on the water-ſide near his

his houſe, he has incloſed with a ſtone wall, taken from a free-ſtone quarry, lately diſcovered on his own eſtate; and which promiſes to be an object deſerving his attention. It was formerly obſerved, that the real rent of the pariſh is at preſent not below L. 3300 ſterling, and that the number of farms contained in it amounts to 68. It is therefore propoſed by the following table, to give a tolerably juſt, though not an entirely exact ſtatement of the different rents paid by each of theſe 68 tenants.

Table

Tenants.	Rents.
1	L. 240
1	200
2 at	120=240
1	100
1	90
1	80
5 at	60=300
5 at	55=275
5 at	50=250
10 at	45=450
10 at	38=380
10 at	30=300
5 at	29=145
6 at	25=150
5 at	20=100
68	L. 3,300

Acres in the pariſh 7591
Wood, - 2100
- - ——
Arable moor paſture, 5491
Which at 12s per acre, will amount to L. 3294: 2 ſter. to which add only L. 5: 18 ſter. and it will make up the entire ſum of L. 3300 ſter. the real rent.

The return upon the acre, comprehending the whole arable ground in the pariſh, does not exceed 5 boſls.

In the preſent year 1795, the ſpring was bad, and ſo rainy, that the ſowing of the greater part of the oats was put off

until the very end of April, or the beginning of May; and throughout the ſummer it was the general opinion, that this crop would be the lateſt ever known here, even later than that of 1782. In the end of Auguſt, however, and till the middle of September, the weather became exceedingly mild and warm, and of courſe, the filling and ripening of the grain, was very much accelerated. Soon after this, a very great froſt took place in the night, which blaſted the tops of the potatoes, and had ſuch influence upon the ſtanding corn, (which was not completely filled,) that it now ſeemed neceſſary to cut it down with all convenient ſpeed. Before the 9th of October, nearly one half of the crop was cut down. From that period, to the 24th, it rained with very little interruption. This occaſioned a very great ſpringing of the victual cut down, and remaining in the fields. On the 24th, the rain was ſucceeded by a violent ſtorm of wind, which it is ſaid, has ſhaken in many places a conſiderable part of the ſtanding crop. It will therefore be extremely neceſſary for gentlemen, who are entruſted with the police of the country, to take care that no victual be ſent abroad, until they are ſure there is a quantity at home, ſufficient to ſupply the demands and neceſſities of the inhabitants. By the former liſt of wood, it is evident, this pariſh is well planted and ornamented with it. The Earl of Kintore, it is ſaid, has at Inglismaldie, his family ſeat, the ſeat of the Lord Halkertons, and in other parts of his eſtate in this pariſh, no leſs than 1500 acres, and that he draws by the ſale of his wood at Inglismaldie alone, upwards of L. 1000 *per annum*. Beſides, the other heritors have planted around their manſion houſes, and on moors, a large quantity of wood, which ſerves not only to beautify the country, but will in a little time, both accommodate the inhabitants, and bring great profit to themſelves. Mr Gillies of Balmakewan, the only

heritor

heritor now reſiding in the pariſh, from his fine nurſery at Luther bridge, has planted ſome years ago, no leſs than 150 acres, on a moor, near the poſt road from Brechin to Laurence-kirk; (which road paſſes through the center of the pariſh,) and a great quantity more, to ornament his place, and decorate the banks of the Luther, and North-Eſk. At Hatton alſo, there is a plantation of about 100 acres. The variety of trees planted in this pariſh, is as follows, firs, oaks, beeches, aſhes, elms, birches, cheſnuts, walnuts, larches, pines, Scots and American ſpruce, alders, willows, planes, and limes.

Roads, Views, Rivers, Bridges, Rivulets.—There are 3 public roads in this pariſh; the reſt are private roads, intended to accommodate the pariſhioners to church, milns, and neibouring markets. The 3 public roads are finely finiſhed, and kept in proper repair by ſtatute labour *. The turnpike-road from Brechin to the North-Eſk bridge at Inglismaldie, not only paſſes through a pleaſant country, adorned with elegant ſeats, and beautiful landſcapes, but the traveller is pleaſed with the windings of the North-Eſk, and of the Krook and Weſt water deſcending into it: and as he approaches towards its banks, it travels with him as a majeſtic and entertaining companion before the venerable houſe of Inglismaldie. Here the woods, the fields, the lawns, the motion of the rivers and the trees jutting out of the rocky-cliffs that embelliſh its banks, decorate the ſcene: but when he comes to the bridge itſelf, and at a time when he is unwilling to part with ſo much beauty, how is he aſtoniſhed to have it increaſed! If nature's fine images can entertain and captivate his imagination,

* The public are much indebted to Sir Alexander Ramſay, Bart. for his former public ſpirited exertions, in planning out, eſtabliſhing, and keeping in repair, roads and bridges.

tion, here now muſt he ſtop, and be raviſhed with beauties, which we cannot paint, and which it is impoſſible to deſcribe. The public road from this bridge to the bridge of Dy, over the Grampian hills, runs in a ſtraight line to the north, by the gate of Inglismaldie. From the ſame gate in a northeaſt direction, is the poſt road to Laurence-kirk. Travelling this way in the dark ſhade, through the woods, and not far from the gate itſelf, is Roſe-hill, the place that is ſaid to have given title to the eldeſt ſon of the Earl of North-Eſk, as the river it ſeems, did to his father *. In getting through the woods of Inglismaldie, there is a fine opening before us, and by turning a little to the eaſt, with the wood on our right hand, by gradual deſcent, we approach Luther water; over which there is a ſtately bridge of one arch, the ſtones of which are ſaid to contain much iron ore. Here there is a moſt delightful landſcape. The North-Eſk deſcending to the eaſt, the Luther to the ſouth, the Black burn twiſting itſelf into the Luther, and the Luther after it has performed its various evolutions through its gently ſloping banks, emptying itſelf with its new aſſociate the Black burn †, into the larger river. Beſides too, at and above the bridge, the wind perfumes you, from the high towering birch, hanging over the edge of the ſtream on the one ſide, and the ſweet ſcented nurſery on the other ſide of Luther. Luther is a ſmall, but pleaſant river, abounding in excellent trouts. Its banks are level and ever green. It takes it riſe in the Grampian hills, and pariſh of Fordoun, and paſſes through that of Laurence-kirk, where it receives a rich

* In ancient times, the Earls of North-Eſk were proprietors of a great extent of ground, on both ſides of the river.

† The Black burn is a large rivulet deſcending through the woods, and in a fine form, paſſing behind the houſe of Inglismaldie, adds great beauty to the place.

rich ſupply of water, from 3 or 4 pleaſant brooks and rivulets. It enters this pariſh, near the burn of Johnſton, and ſeparates both at the bridge and village of Laurence-kirk. Running nearly through the center of the pariſh, it traverſes the lower lands, the diſtance of 7 or 8 miles; and after having turned 3 mills *, and paſſed under 2 bridges †, it divides the eſtates of Inglismaldie and Balmakewan, before it deſcends into the North-Eſk.

In a pariſh ſo hollow and level as this, it can ſcarcely be expected that there ſhould be found any extenſive views; and yet

* The mills alluded to, are Thornton, Barns, and Luther; ſome one of which, during the froſt laſt winter, (that was ſuppoſed greater and of longer duration than any ever remembered,) was always employed in grinding victual, while the other mills, on the North-Eſk, (viz. Bridge-mill, Mary-mill, and Spear-mill,) were for a long time ſtopt, by reaſon of the violence of the froſt.

† The bridges are Luther formerly mentioned, and Caldham. This laſt was erected in 1783. It conſiſts of 3 arches, and ſtands on the public road, ſomewhat leſs than half way between Mary-kirk and Fettercairn. At this bridge, there is an extenſive landſcape, and pictureſque appearance of the river, meandring among the meadows, and like a ſport-man's fine pointer, does not ſeem fatigued. It is alſo to be obſerved, that the road from Mary-kirk to Fettercairn, is well made and finiſhed; and from the variety of gentlemen's ſeats that may be ſeen from it, muſt give no little entertainment to the traveller. Kirktown-hill, Balmano, Hatton, Balmakewan, and Gallero, form a circle about him, and incloſe him on every ſide. Leaving this view, he paſſes between the planting of Hatton and Balmakewan, till he croſſes at right angles, the road from Luther-bridge, to Laurence-kirk. He then proceeds in a ſtraight line, by the bridge of Caldham, through a large extent of wood, till the road is terminated by the boundary of the pariſh, at Eſlie. Returning to the poll, where the two roads croſs one another; and placing his right hand to the planting of Hatton, he proceeds in a ſtraight line, with Luther on his left, and almoſt always in his view, untill he comes within little more than half a mile of Laurence-kirk, where he has a fine view ſpoiled, and the road much lengthened by a diſagreeable turning.

yet at not the distance of a mile from the village of Mary-kirk, there is a most extensive prospect. Looking to the west, through the hollow of Strathmore, in a clear day, you can see Lord Privy Seal's Observatory at Belmount castle; and casting your eye still farther, some appearance of hills in the neighbourhood of Stirling, at the distance perhaps of 64 miles. In this parish, there are no less than 9 rivulets, or brooks, and one river that descend into and form a junction with the North-Esk. There is no place where the inhabitants are better supplied with good water than here. The spring and mineral waters are accounted excellent. In and about the village of Mary-kirk, there are no less than 3 spring-wells. Two of them are in Mary-mill bank, and both perhaps equal in quality; but that which is called Lady-banks-well, (concerning which, many fabulous stories have been related,) is esteemed best, on account no doubt of its larger stream. Certain it is, however, that this water is uncommonly refreshing and pleasant to the taste. In fevers, when patients decline all other kinds of drink, they call for Lady-banks-water, and are refreshed by it; and sometimes it happens, that the quantity they take, is some way or other instrumental in removing the fever. At Balmaleedie, not far from the village, there is a well of the chalybeate kind; and nearer to Mary-kirk, on the edge of the Burn, there is another, both much impregnated with mineral substance; and which have been not a little characterised and recommended by physicians of great eminence. The former, which is supposed lightest, has been for some years quite neglected; and the latter, for scorbutic disorders, and chronical distempers, has been much resorted to, by the inhabitants of the village; and it is believed, not a few have received from it great benefit. There is also at Balmano, a fine spring-well, called St John's-well, which in antient times, was held in great estimation. Numbers who

thought its waters of a ſanative quality, brought their rickety children to be waſhed in its ſtream. Its water was likewiſe thought a ſovereign remedy for ſore eyes, which by frequent waſhing, was ſuppoſed to cure them. To ſhow their gratitude to the Saint, and that he might be propitious to continue the virtues of the waters, they put into the well preſents, not indeed of any great value, or ſuch as would have been of the leaſt ſervice to him, if he had ſtood in need of money, but ſuch as they conceived, the good and merciful Apoſtle, who did not delight in coſtly oblations, could not fail to accept *.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of this pariſh are few in number, and of no great importance. It is, however, to be obſerved, that the traditions which bid faireſt to claim the title of antiquity are theſe. A few years ago, when part of the church was to be rebuilt, there were found in the heart of the wall, a few ſtones about 6 feet long. The ſtones were in the form of a coffin. One of them was carved round the edge; had the impreſſion of a large broad ſword, ſuſpended at no great diſtance from the top, the whole length of the ſtone. Oppoſite to this ſword, was engraved a figure of an eliptic form, from which proceeded a lance or ſpear, nearly the ſame length. Theſe ſtones, it is ſuppoſed, were taken from ſome

* The preſents generally given, were pins, needles, and rags taken from their cloaths. This may point out the ſuperſtition of thoſe times; and many no doubt, will boaſt much, that they are born in a more enlightened age; but while they may be entertained with the inſignificant gifts of their anceſtors, let them take care, that they themſelves be not among the number of thoſe, who render to God no returns for benefits received; or if they do, make it obvious by their conduct, that they pay little or no regard either to his poſitive or moral precepts. Such a conduct in the eye of reaſon, will be accounted as ridiculous as the offering a pin, a needle, or a rag in ſacrifice.

ſome other burial ground; and all we can conjecture about them is, that they have been placed in the wall when the church was firſt built, or afterwards when the wall might have been repaired. Not far from the church, is a farm called Spear-mill, which is ſaid to have derived its name from a battle having been fought there with ſpears *. The ſtory related of the battle is this. The North-Eſk by a great flood had ſwept away the mill of Canterland at Kinnardie. The proprietor of Canterland and Balmaleedie, not knowing where to build another, requeſted of the proprietor of Aberluthnet, that he would allow him to carry the mill-dam, taken from the North-Eſk, and the Burn of Aberluthnet, after turning his mill a little farther towards the eaſt, until both in one current reached his property. This the proprietor of Aberluthnet abſolutely refuſed, and the other ſtrenuouſly inſiſted that it ſhould be done by force, if he would not conſent to it. In a night or two after, the proprietor of Canterland cauſed a ſtrong oxen-plough draw a line from the Burn and mill-dam, in the direction he wiſhed the water to run; and after this, forthwith ſet his people to work, to complete what he had already begun. The proprietor of Aberluthnet being informed of this, ſpeedily aſſembled his vaſſals and dependents, and with great violence attacked his opponent, who was well prepared to receive him, near the place where the mill now ſtands. Both ſides joined battle; they fought with ſpears, and after a bloody conflict, the proprietor of Aberluthnet was defeated, the mill-dam extended, and the mill itſelf built where it preſently is. After the battle, it is ſaid, they

* On different parts of this farm, ſeveral ſtone coffins, and the bones of dead bodies have been found; and it is ſuppoſed, the ſtones in the church wall might have been taken from thence; and that the ſtone moſt ornamented, might belong to ſome leader or commander that fell in battle.

they buried their dead on the farm of Spear-mill. But when this happened none can preciſely tell. This farm is bounded on the eaſt by the Burn of Inglis-den. The Burn alſo bounds the pariſh, and divides it from St Cyrus. On this farm, it is likewiſe ſaid, a bloody battle was fought between the Engliſh and the Scots;—that the Engliſh general was ſlain, and no doubt they would add that the Scots gained the victory; but the date of this is alſo unknown. There is a ſmall piece of ground a little up the Burn from Mary-kirk, called the Threap-acre. About the boundary of this ground, it is ſaid, there was once a diſpute between the proprietors of Balmaleedie and Aberluthnet. The former claimed the ground as his, and ſaid the Burn was the boundary; the latter contended otherwiſe. At laſt they agreed to ſettle the diſpute, by allowing the proprietor of Aberluthnet to bring proper men upon the ſpot, who might declare upon oath the truth of the matter. The arbitrators came at the time appointed, with the earth of Aberluthnet in their boots, and ſolemnly ſwore, they were then ſtanding upon the ground of Aberluthnet. This fraud coming to the ears of the proprietor of Balmaleedie, he ſent his neighbour a challenge to meet him in the field, and anſwer for his perfidy, by ſingle combat. The combatants met, and the proprietor of Aberluthnet was ſlain; and it is not above 18 years ſince the ſtones were removed from the place where it is ſaid he was buried. It is alſo to be obſerved, that there were 4 Druidical temples here; one at Hoſpital Shiells, another on the Burn of Balmakellie, a third on the farm of Dyke-lands, and at no great diſtance from the Deer-dyke, that in ancient times ſeparated this pariſh from Garvock, when (as tradition ſays,) it was a foreſt; and a fourth near the houſe of Hatton, at a little diſtance from the public road; but as the ſtones of all theſe are removed, and taken away for building houſes, there appear very few veſtiges of them now. The laſt thing that

occurs deſerving any notice, is, that at Gallow-hillock, in the time of the feudal ſyſtem, there was a gallows erected, on which thoſe were hanged who diſpleaſed the proprietor. The hillock or artificial mound (as it may be called), is viſible, but the gallows was long ago removed; and happy—happy ſhould we think ourſelves, that we live in better times, when the greateſt Lord in the land will not—nor dare he moleſt us.

Comparative view of the value of land, mode of cultivation; price of proviſions; wages to ſervants; progreſs of manners, from the year 1771, to the year 1795, with a reference now and then, to more diſtant periods.

In 1771, and for 10 years after, an eſtate ſold at L. 6000 ſterling, would in the preſent year 1795, nearly ſell at twice that ſum. In 1740, only at L. 3000; and in 1650, at leſs than 2 years rents of the ſame ground the preſent year.

In 1771, every farm was diſtinguiſhed by In-field, and Out-field lands. The latter far exceeded the former in extent, and was ſometimes in tillage; but for the moſt part in paſture, while the former was manured and conſtantly in crop. But now in 1795, the diſtinction between In-field and Out-field is aboliſhed; and graſs-ſeeds are ſown in almoſt every part of the farm.

In 1771, every field contained a number of baulks, where nothing grew but natural graſs; and which were deemed ſo ſtrong and rugged, that it appeared then impoſſible to plough them. In 1795, every baulk and obſtacle is removed; and the whole land in the field cultivated in proportion to the ability of the tenant.

In 1771, in many places a quantity of land appeared crooked in the figure of the letter S, very high in the middle of the ridge, and conſequently very unequal in breadth. In 1795, the ridges are all ſtraighted and equally broad.

In 1771, the land was generally very wet and full of weeds, and there were few attempts made to deſtroy them. Since that time, every field has been not a little drained and croſs-ploughed; but all care has been taken to deſtroy the weeds; and afterwards by lime and dung to procure a good crop.

In 1771, the farmers generally ploughed with oxen; having 4, 6, or 8 in a plough. But in 1795, it is preſumed, they have too much laid them aſide, and betaken themſelves to horſe-ploughs; and apply 4 or 2 in a plough, as they think ſufficient for the nature of the ſoil, the time, progreſs, and mode of dreſſing it.

In 1771, beef ſold at 2s 6d, and 3s per ſtone; mutton at 2s 6d, and 2s 8d per do.; butter 6d per lib.; cheeſe 3s, or 3s 9d per ſtone; chickens 1d½ each; hens from 5d to 8d each; eggs 1d½, or 2d per doz.; ſalmon 1d per lib.; and in former times, each of theſe articles proportionally lower. In 1795, beef ſells at 5s 4d, or 6s per ſtone; mutton at 5s 4d per do.; butter from 10d, to 13d per lib.; cheeſe from 5s to 6s per ſtone; chickens from 4d, to 7d each; hens from 1s, to 1s 4d each; eggs from 4d, to 8d per doz.; ſalmon is ſeldom uſed but at the tables of the rich, and is 6d per lib. In the month of Auguſt, young ſalmon begin to be ſold at 2d½ per do.

In 1771, oat-meal ſold at 10s, or 10s 6d per boll; bear ſeldom exceeded the price of meal; but ſince 1780, oat-meal has been generally increaſing in its price, and bear and barley have ſold for more. Barley generally exceeds Cheſter bear, 1s 6d, or 2s per boll. In 1795, oat-meal has got up from 16s, to L. 1 ſter. per boll; and bear and barley it is ſuppoſed, will bring more money. There is not much flour bread uſed here; what is needed is bought from the baker in loaves and biſcuit. Turnips are more generally uſed for milk-cows and

rearing young cattle, than for feeding oxen for the butcher. Each farmer kills an ox or cow betwixt Martinmaſs and Chriſtmaſs, which is ſalted up for family uſe. Potatoes are only beginning to be planted in large quantities in the field, and only a few bolls are ſold over and above what is needed in the pariſh. The crop is worſe this year than any crop ſince 1782, having ſuffered much damage by the long continued rains, but much more indeed from the high winds that followed after. The corns in many places, then ſtanding, have been almoſt all ſhaken: and it is ſuppoſed, that after the quantity of victual neceſſary to ſow the fields, and ſupply the inhabitants with proviſions, for a ſingle year is ſecured, there will not be much over to pay the farms, or to ſend to market.

In 1771, every family in the pariſh brewed the ſmall beer they needed, which coſt them about 15d or 16d per barrel; and generally had ſome of the ſtrongeſt wort made into a better kind; but now this is entirely and by neceſſity given over, and all their ſmall beer is taken from a brewery at 2s 8d per barrel. Whiſky is the only ſpirituous liquor that is uſed, or can be afforded here; which about 16 years ago, they could buy very good in quality, from 1s 10d, to 2s 2d per pint; *i. e.* 16 gills; but now they pay 3s 6d for the ſame quantity, but much worſe in quality *.

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* It is indeed worthy the attention of the Legiſlature, to endeavour to correct an abuſe which has been introduced into this kind of traffic, and which is now arrived at the moſt alarming height. Whiſky is a ſpirit diſtilled from malt, and when properly done, it is eſteemed by ſome, as very little inferior to rum; but for ſome years, it has very much changed its taſte and flavour; and it is ſuſpected, that either proper attention is not paid to it at the time of diſtilling, or that afterwards it is mixed with ſome pernicious ingredients very deſtructive to the bowels, or to the health or conſtitution of thoſe who drink it.

In 1771, a man-ſervant, or plough-man's yearly wages, beſides his maintenance, L. 4, or L. 4: 10 *per annum.* In 1750, L. 3. In 1740, L. 1: 10. But in the preſent year (1795), they are got up to L. 10 or L. 12 ſterling.

In 1771, the yearly wages of a maid-ſervant, beſides her maintenance, L. 2, or L. 2: 10. In 1760, L. 1: 10. In 1750, L. 1: 4. But in the preſent year (1795), they are riſen to L. 2, or L. 2: 5. A man-ſervant now receives in harveſt, L. 2, or L. 2: 5; a maid-ſervant, L. 1: 5, or if ſuppoſed a good hand, L. 1: 10.

In 1771, many of the leſs cultivated part of the inhabitants of this pariſh appeared not very complaiſant, or well-bred to ſtrangers. An extreme fondneſs for religious diſputations ſeemed, in ſome meaſure, to conſtitute a part of their character. The topics in which they were moſt converſant, and which appeared to ingroſs no little ſhare of their attention, were of ſuch a myſterious and doubtful nature, that the agreement or diſagreement about them, could neither promote the peace and happineſs of mankind, nor tend to advance the intereſt of true piety and virtue.

In 1795, the manners of the ſame individuals appear to have experienced a conſiderable change, and, when contraſted with the former period, are highly poliſhed. That cenſorious and diſputatious ſpirit, almoſt every where diſappears, and is ſucceeded by induſtry and frugality*. The converſation about

* The ſudden change of dreſs, that has taken place in this pariſh, within the courſe of 15 or 16 years, and the general deſire to promote external decorations, (however ſtrange it may appear,) have tended not a little to humanize the paſſions, ſoften the features, and to add eaſe and ſprightlineſs to the whole form: but the danger is, that if this is extended in any degree beyond the proper line, it will introduce arrogance, diſſimulation, and covetouſneſs, and a ſettled contempt for all the ties of ſubordination, (wiſely appointed

about religion and other subjects which the newspapers may now and then bring upon the carpet, is indeed much more peaceable and rational than in several other places; and has marked upon it some of the amiable features of morality and charity, humanity and loyalty, hospitality and true patriotism. The character of the people in this parish in general merits respect. Blessed with a good understanding, and a tolerable share of common sense, they are enabled to perceive right and wrong, and to copy after the manners of those they see reason to respect. They live temperately and soberly, in close amity with their neighbours, and no party distinctions appear now to lessen their good will. Of those who attend the parish church, it may be said with the fullest assurance, that they are regular attendants on Divine worship, and the stated ordinances of the church; and that unless in a few prejudices, contracted by early education, their religion is of the moderate and peaceable kind. They are well affected to the constitution of their country, and sincerely love and honour their King, and all the branches of the Royal Family *.

Conclusion.—

appointed by providence,) which must ever be preserved; but when broken, will prove no less fatal to the peace and happiness of society, than any other distemper, that could possibly be named. It is with pleasure to be observed, that here an insolent and licentious spirit, does by no means generally prevail.

* In the war in which we are engaged, it is apparent, that the inhabitants here, in general, hold in perfect detestation, the blood-thirsty and dark intriguing spirit of the French. The murder of the King, Queen, and Royal Family of France, shocked the stoutest of them, with horror and indignation; nor are these impressions lessened, when they conceive that the same evil principles, which led to perpetrate the blackest crimes, are artfully disseminated among us, and have precipitated some monsters in human form, to endeavour to assassinate our beloved Sovereign: but thanks be to God, who has been his protector, and we hope, will ever protect him from the bloody attempts

Concluſion.—In order to improve this pariſh to the fulleſt extent, it would be abſolutely neceſſary to have it all regularly incloſed, and drained, after the moſt approved Engliſh model. To promote this, the tenants ſhould have long leaſes, and in ſetting the ground, care muſt be taken that the rent do not exceed its real value; and that neither proprietor nor tenant be impoſed upon in the terms of contract. By planting a number of trees, of hard wood, along the incloſures, and allowing, at the end of the leaſe, a certain number to belong to the tenant, this would not only inſure their preſervation, but be of the higheſt advantage to both. Short leaſes, high rents, and high wages to ſervants, will inevitably (whatever may be ſaid to the contrary), in a ſhort time, bring ruin upon any country, where the ground is level, the ſoil wet, and the ſeaſons not early. Every tenant labouring under theſe diſadvantages, will endeavour by every mean in his power, to leſſen the number of ſervants and cattle that cultivate his fields; but what is the conſequence? In the ſeed-time, he never accompliſhes his work in its proper ſeaſon; and in hurrying it on, it is generally never done in the way and manner in which it ought to be done; and for the ſame reaſon, the harveſt is later; and by not engaging a ſufficient number of reapers, it is protracted far beyond the time in which it could and ought to have been finiſhed. This is obviouſly one great cauſe of the preſent late harveſt: but to thoſe who ſeriouſly turn their thoughts to this important ſubject, it will appear, that other cauſes have concurred to blaſt our expectations of a very plentiful harveſt. "Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, but it is God only "who giveth the increaſe." In vain do we attempt to cultivate

attempts of evil men. The tale of woe, that would have enſued, is happily removed; and we hope a watchful providence will remove it for ever.

vate and improve our fields, if we leave the great author of natnre, the fountain-head of all happineſs, out of our ſchemes of improvement. That a ſettled diſregard to the ſuperintendence of the Almighty has been increaſing in every corner of the land for ſeveral years, and that too, to the moſt alarming height, is as obvious as any demonſtration in Euclid. Some there are, who ſeemingly pay God no homage at all, others who pretend to believe in him as the author and giver of all the good gifts they enjoy; but at the ſame time, preſent him with nothing in return, but ſuch oblations and ſervices, as would be accounted the higheſt inſult to any earthly benefactor. Properly to explain and illuſtrate this ſubject would take up more room than might be deemed neceſſary or proper for a Statiſtical Report. However, one thing is certain, that God is diſhonoured, his ſubjects are not ſufficiently grateful and obedient to him. He requires a higher veneration, better obedience, and a more rational and reſpectful ſervice. Men may for a time inſult and pour contempt upon his Majeſty, but there is a period when they muſt ſtop, and a line and boundary which they dare not paſs over. When they ſerve him with fidelity, he bleſſes them with plenty; when they leſſen their regards, he is ſtill indulgent, but muſt leſſen the ſtreams of his bounty: but when they grow deſperately mad, and reject and deſpiſe him altogether, he then reſumes his power, and is ready to deſtroy, by his Almighty vengeance. We have ſeen the caſtigations of heaven, ſeverely puniſhing for a long ſeaſon, that irreligious and cruel nation we have been and are yet contending with; and we might have ſeen too, if we had opened our eyes to behold the agency of providence, ſome indications of Divine diſpleaſure againſt that country that gave us birth, and which we are all bound to love and ſuccour above any other nation in the world: but how can we love our country, if we are ſtrangers

to

to the love of God. Without this as a firſt principle, we can have no real regard for any other object leſs venerable and lovely. But poſſeſſing this, we ſhall love our King, our country, and all the various ranks of men in it; and rejoice in ſeeing and promoting their virtue and happineſs. That this generous ſpirit is not excited in proportion to its value, is viſible from the many inſtances we have, of a great indifference to ſerve or ſuccour either the one or the other, as we are at all times, and by every reaſon in the world bound to do. It would be no impoſſible thing to render a ſingle pariſh happy, did the men of influence and power in it, unite, by every generous endeavour and poſſible exertion, to accompliſh ſo ſalutary and god-like an object; and the ſame proportionate endeavour would be no leſs effectual when extended to a nation or kingdom. But if men of fortune, influence and power, do not firſt begin to lend a helping hand to this neceſſary work; if they are not firmly perſuaded, that it is as conſonant to the principles of right reaſon and common ſenſe, that they themſelves ſhould firſt begin to pay real homage and veneration to the Deity, in any mode or manner worthy of him, as it is for them to expect gratitude for great favours they have done, or faithful ſervices and tokens of reſpect from their dependents, their children and ſervants, it never can take place; all the philoſophers and politicians on earth can never eſtabliſh it. What would every perſon well affected to his country not give, rather than that that evil and ſanguinary ſpirit, which has for a long time ravaged France, ſhould pervade and deſolate this country, and deſtroy the beautiful fabric of the Britiſh Government? Our country muſt be ſaved; it muſt not become a field of blood; the predictions againſt it are not true. Let us be but at the tenth part of the trouble and expence to preſerve it, and to bleſs its inhabitants, that our enemies have been to raiſe to themſelves

ſelves a new conſtitution, and to deſtroy ours, and all would be well. Why have the French been ſo long ſucceſsful againſt all who have oppoſed them, notwithſtanding their internal commotions, and bloody diſaſters, but that their fall may be the more conſpicuous; and that all men may know, that this hath God done, to humble the arrogance of the impious and terrible, and ſuch as would not have him to reign over them? Why have we been ſo very unſucceſsful in gaining battles, but that we alſo have a debt to pay; the debt of repentance for many faults committed; and the debt of gratitude for many bleſſings and favours conferred upon us, which we have been almoſt totally unmindful and regardleſs of. This debt, however, muſt be ſpeedily paid, and not only ſo, but in the beſt manner we poſſibly can. Raiſing armies will not do, though with theſe armies we could deſtroy all our enemies; for if God be angry, he can deſtroy by famine, as well as by ſword; and if this he is pleaſed to withhold, he has other weapons equally terrible to execute his diſpleaſure. Neither will a day or two appointed for faſting and humiliation do the buſineſs, unleſs they excite in us thoſe diſpoſitions of mind, which are beſt calculated to regain his favour. Let it become as faſhionable every Lord's day, for all people of figure and fortune, to attend the ſanctuary of God, as it has for ſeveral years been faſhionable for ſome to contemn and diſpiſe it. Were this once begun, the reſt of the work would be pleaſant and ſoon completed; and what the work is two ſentences could explain. At preſent, all that is neceſſary to be obſerved is, that if we are in earneſt to preſerve every thing that ought to be accounted dear to us as Britons, we muſt in the firſt place, be all of us at leaſt profeſſors of religion, and attendants on the ordinances of the goſpel, and the reſt of the work would ſoon ſucceed, to the wonder and aſtoniſhment

of

of all the world. Faction would ceaſe, and fly our country; and an univerſal harmony and good-will would prevail. No enemy would riſe up againſt us, becauſe ſoon would it be known, that all the armies on earth could not make us afraid.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF BOTRIPHNIE.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER ANGUS.

Name, Situation, &c.

I AM entirely unacquainted with the derivation of the name Botriphnie. It is probably Gaelic; but there is no tradition remaining how long it is ſince that language was ſpoken in this part of the county. The extent of the pariſh from north to ſouth, is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ computed miles, and from eaſt to weſt, about 3 miles. The pariſh of Mortlich lies to the weſt, Glaſs to the ſouth, Cairney and Keith to the eaſt, and the united pariſhes of Boharm and Dundurcus to the north. The diſtance from the ſea is 9 computed miles.

The appearance of the country is hilly; but the valley is very fertile and beautifully diverſified with ſmall ſtreams of water, the banks of which are covered with birch and aller, the natural production of the ſoil. Lime-ſtone is found here in great plenty, and in many places not above 2 feet from the ſurface; but it is little uſed in this pariſh as a manure. There are few mechanics of any kind; the men are generally employed in huſbandry, the women in ſpining flax; partly the

the growth of this country, which they manufacture into coarſe cloth; and partly flax imported from Holland, which is made into finer yarn; and ſent from this to Paiſley or Glaſgow. At preſent, the price of ſpinning is low, and a woman cannot earn more than 20d, or 2s a-week.

The farmers are in general poor. Conſidering the ſtate of cultivation, the land is high-rented, the beſt paying nearly 20s, and the inferior 10s; but, beſides the fixed rent, the tenant pays the land-tax; is obliged to work ſo many days in harveſt, to lead fuel in ſummer, to carry ſo many loads to the diſtance of 20 miles; a practice which has a tendency to break the ſpirit of the tenant, and to diſcourage improvement; beſides, the tenants ſeldom having a leaſe for more than 19 years.

The rent of the pariſh is about L. 1000; of which L. 850 belongs to Mr Duff of Drummuir; L. 100 to Lord Fife, and L. 50 to Mr Stewart of Auchluncart. The church was built in 1617, and the manſe in 1776. The only funds for the maintenance of the poor, are our weekly collections, which will amount yearly, to about L. 6 ſterling, and L. 3: 10, the intereſt of money belonging to the Kirk Seſſion.

The miniſter's ſtipend, including the glebe of 4 acres, does not amount to more than L. 80 ſterling.

The Seſſion Records are not older than the incumbency of my predeceſſor, who was ſettled in 1728, and was the firſt Preſbyterian miniſter after the Revolution. There is a regiſter of baptiſms kept pretty regularly ſince 1690.

The pariſh conſiſts of 630 ſouls, of whom males 301; females 329; the number of families 150; the average number of births 14; no regiſter of burials kept; 103 under 10 years of age; 85 between 10, and 20. There are no remarkable inſtances of longevity; there are only about 3 perſons in the pariſh above 80. We have 15 Seceders; 3 Roman catholics;

tholics; and 1 of the Epiſcopal church. Population has decreaſed 1782, about 100. This decreaſe is owing to the poverty of the country, and the advance of rents; the poorer people retire to the villages and towns where they are employed by the manufacturers; and many of the young men find more encouragement in the ſouthern counties.

I am perſuaded there muſt have been ſome miſtake in the account of the population of this pariſh given to Dr Webſter in 1755. The numbers are ſtated by him at 953.

The liſt I have taken is very exact, and correſponds to a roll of examinable perſons, as far back as 1681, which I found lately in looking over an old Seſſion Regiſter; the number at that time, was 486, and it would not be too high a calculation to ſuppoſe, that there might be 100 under 8 years of age. Since I have been here, that is, from 1774, the population has decreaſed about 100. This is owing in ſome degree, to the bad crops in 1782, and 1783, which reduced many of the farmers, and obliged others to go to the neighbouring towns and villages. But beſides this, moſs for fuel is becoming every day more and more ſcarce; and heritors reſtrict their tenants to a certain number of ſubſets. The difficulty of providing fuel is one of the greateſt obſtacles to the progreſs of agriculture; while our ſouthern neighbours are employing their horſes and ſervants in the different parts of huſbandry, we are drudging from the beginning of ſummer to the end of it, in providing at beſt but a very precarious ſtock of fuel for the winter. Were the duty taken off the coals, we ſhould then be able to provide them at a much cheaper rate than peats, and in one ſixth part of the time*.

It might be mentioned as another cauſe of the decreaſe of population, that the ſervants wages have advanced very conſiderably

* The duty on coals carried coaſt-ways, has been taken off ſince this account was written.

ſiderably ſince 1782, and the farmers, at leaſt in this pariſh, employ fewer than they did before that period; and as the cattle have advanced much in their value, more of them are reared in this country, and of conſequence, leſs grain is raiſed, and fewer hands are neceſſary for the cultivation.

School of this Pariſh.—There is a legal pariſh ſchool; the ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter, 12 bolls of meal; L. 2 ſterling as Seſſion clerk; 6d for every baptiſm; 1s for every marriage; and 1s 6d a quarter for every ſcholar. The number of ſcholars, from 20 to 30. The children are taught reading Engliſh and writing; a few of them inſtructed in the principles of arithmetic; but the Latin language not ſo commonly taught at the parochial ſchools as formerly; though in general, the ſchoolmaſters are ſufficiently qualified for that purpoſe. This is of great conſequence to miniſters children, as their narrow livings could not afford to board them in a town, while at the grammar ſchool.

My own family is very numerous: I have 2 ſons and 5 daughters; and have been married 13 years.

There is not an ale-houſe, or inn in the pariſh; we have an annual fair in the month of February; where linen yarn, commonly the production of home flax, is ſold; and alſo ſome farming utenſils; where bargains are made for victual, and ſervants are engaged.

The farmers in this corner, generally employ hired ſervants; cottagers are very little employed; they are generally tradeſmen, and cultivate a few acres; which they hold of the tenant, and over and above their rent, are bound for ſo many days work.

APPENDIX.



APPENDIX.

ACCOUNT OF RELIGIOUS HOUSES,

(Omitted in Statiſtical Account of the Pariſh of Culroſs, Vol. x. P. 131.)

St Mungo.

AT the eaſt end of the town, on the ſea coſt, (the high road only intervening,) there are the remains of a chapel called St Mungo's chapel, of which the tradition is, that it was on or near the place where St Mungo or Kentigern was born. He is ſaid to have been the ſon of Eugenius the III. King of the Scots, and a daughter of Lothus King of the Picts. His mother Thamit, when near the time of her delivery, in order to conceal her ſhame, threw herſelf into an open boat, with a view to its being caſt away, and, after being, for ſome time, toſſed about in the Firth, was driven aſhore, at or near the place where the chapel is ſituated, and there brought forth her ſon. There were two chaplains for this chapel, who had their ſtipend paid out of ſome lands in Strathern; but after the Reformation, theſe lands were diſponed by the crown, to the college of Glaſgow. St Mungo was educated at Culroſs, under the tuition of Servanus or St Serf, who lived in an hermitage, in the place where the monaſtery was afterwards built.

St Serf.

ANECDOTES of St Serf, from Winter's Chronicle, a M. S. in the Cotton Library: Winter lived in the end of the 14th, and beginning of the 15th century: he was a Canon regular of St Andrew's, and Prior of the Monaſtery of Loch-leven. An excerpt from his Chronicle is publiſhed by Pinkerton, in a collection of old Scots poems, which gives the following account of St Serf.

ST SERF, was ſon to the King of Canaan, and reſigned his paternal inheritance to a younger brother, that he might be at liberty to travel. About the death of Pope John III. A. D. 511, he came to Rome, and according to the legend, was raiſed to the papacy, which he held 7 years: (This, Pinkerton thinks to be a fable, and gives it as his opinion, that St Serf was a native of Italy.) Setting out from Rome, and travelling through France, he arrived at the oppoſite ſhore to Britain, where he embarked with his retinue of 100 men; and after a proſperous voyage, arrived at the Iſland of Inchkeith, between Leith and Kinghorn; there he was viſited by Sanct Adaman; then Abbot of Icolum-kil; (Inch-colm I ſuppoſe,) and intreated to come to Fife. In compliance with the holy man's requeſt, he left Inch-keith, and arrived at Dyſart, and proceeding from thence by water, came to Kinniel.——What follows is in Winter's language:

Syne at Kinniel he came to land;
There our the water he keſt his wande,
That ſuddenly grew in a tree,
And bare of applis great plente;
And that ſtede aftyr ay,
Morglaſs was called mony day.
Syne our the water, of purpoſe,
Of Forth he paſſed till Culroſſe;
Quhar that he thought a kirk to found.

In

In this deſign, he was oppoſed with great cruelty by Brude ſon of Dugard, who was at that time King of the Picts in Scotland: but Brude being overtaken with a ſevere ſickneſs, was recovered by the prayers of St Serf; upon this he made his peace with the Saint, and made him a grant of all Culroſs, with all the profits of it freely, commended himſelf and his ſtate to the Saint's prayers, and entertained him and his company moſt honourably on the ſpot.

Their fyrſt Sanct Serf tuk his reſſit (reſidence),
To lif on that as he mycht get;
And there he brought up Sanct Mongow,
That ſyne was biſhop of Glaſgou.
Syne fre Culroſs he paſt evyn,
To the Inch of Loch-leven;
The King Brude of devocion
Mad till Sanct Serf donation
Of that Inch, and he dwelt their,
Till ſevyn yers our paſſit were.

Then follows an account of St Serf's travels to Tullibody and Tullicultry, where he wrought many miracles, and concludes with a long conference he had with the devil, in which many points of theology were propounded by the enemy, and diſcuſſed by the Saint, with great propriety and good ſenſe. So that his ſubtle antagoniſt was forced to acknowledge, that he kend him for a wiſe man. In the concluſion we are told, that St Serf returned to Culroſs where

" He yielding (ſays the Chronicle), his cors till
" Hallowit ſepulture, and his ſaull to the Creator.'

No mention is made in the above of St Serf's viſiting the Orkneys, but from his being ſtyled the Apoſtle of the Orkneys, it is probable that he had been there alſo.

The monaſtery which was founded in the year 1217, by Malcolm Thane of Fife, lies northweſt from St Mungo's, at the head of the town, on a riſing ground, commanding a beautiful and extenſive proſpect of the Firth; conſiderable remains of it are yet to be ſeen; on the north ſide of it was the abbey church, which had a tower or ſteeple in the middle of it, which continues ſtill entire, as alſo the part of the church which is now made uſe of for the pariſh church. The abbey church was dedicated not only to the Virgin Mary, but alſo to St Serf; who was conſidered as the tutelar ſaint of this place, in honour of whom, there was an annual proceſſion on his day; viz. 1ſt July, early in the morning of which, all the inhabitants, men and women, young and old, aſſembled and carried green branches through the town, decking the public places with flowers, and ſpent the reſt of the day in feſtivity. The proceſſion is ſtill continued, though the day is changed from the Saint's day, to the preſent King's birth-day.

The Earls of Argyle who were formerly wont to reſide at Caſtle Campbell, a ſtrong hold of theirs on the ſouth ſide of the Ochils, are ſaid to have been heritable bailies of the abbey; by them it was diſpoſed to Colvill of Ochiltree, in whoſe family the office continued, till the heritable juriſdictions were taken away, anno 1748.

The Argyle family had a chapel adjoining to, and communicating with the church, a part of which ſtill remains; and ſome of the family were buried there.

A convent was ſent to this abbey, from the abbey of Kinloſs, with Hugh the firſt abbot. John Hog was abbot of this place, 14th April 1484, when Culroſs was erected into a burgh of barony. The laſt abbot of this place was Alexander ſon to Sir James Colvill of Ochiltree, who was admitted a Lord of Seſſion, anno 1574. Sir James, brother to Alex-

ander, was raiſed to the dignity of Lord Colvill of Culroſs, at which time, the King gave him a grant of the diſſolved abbey.

At the Reformation, the rental of this abbey, amounted to L. 768: 16: 7 of money; 3 chalders, 3 bolls wheat; 14 chalders, 10 bolls, 2 firlots barley; 13 chalders, 12 bolls 3 firlots $3\frac{1}{2}$ pecks oats; 1 chalder 2 bolls ſalt; 10 wedders; 22 lambs; 7 doz. of capons; $28\frac{1}{2}$ doz. of poultry; $7\frac{1}{2}$ ſtone butter $79\frac{1}{2}$ ſtone cheeſe; and 8 truſſes of ſtraw. At that time, there were 9 Monks in the convent of the Ciſtertian order.

About a quarter of a mile to the weſt of the abbey church, are the ruins of the old church, which was before the Reformation the pariſh church, and which, with the church-yard around it, is ſtill uſed as burial ground.

TRIAL of WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK for Witchcraft.—Extracted from the Minutes of the Kirk-Seſſion of Kirkaldy, A. D. 1636.

(Omitted in the Account of Kirkaldy, P. 1.)

September 17th, 1633.

THE which day, compeared Aliſon Dick, challenged upon ſome ſpeeches uttered by her againſt William Coke, tending to Witchcraft; denied the ſamyne.

1. Compeared Alexander Savage, Andrew Nicol, and George Tillie, who being admitted and ſworn, deponed as follows: The ſaid Alexander Savage, that he heard the ſaid Aliſon Dick ſay to her huſband William Coke, "Thou has put "down many ſhips; it had been gude for the people of "Kirkaldie,

" Kirkaldie, that they had knit a ſtone about thy neck and " drowned thee."

2. Andrew Nicol deponed, that he heard the ſaid Aliſon ſay to him, " Thou has gotten the woman's ſong laid, as " thou promiſed; thou art over long living: it had been " gude for the women of Kirkaldy, that thou had been " dead long ſince. I ſhall cauſe all the world wonder " upon thee."

3. George Tillie deponed, that he heard her ſay to him, " It had been gude for the women of Kirkaldy, to put " him to death; and that he had died 7 years ſince."

Also compeared Jean Adamſon, Kathrine Spens, Marion Meaſon, Iſobel Muriſon, Aliſon Kelloch, who being admitted and ſworn, deponed as follows:

4. Jean Adamſon deponed, that ſhe heard Aliſon Dick ſay to her huſband William Coke, " Thief! Thief! what is this " that I have been doing? keeping thee thretty years " from meikle evil doing. Many pretty men has thou " putten down both in ſhips and boats; thou has gotten " the woman's ſong laid now. Let honeſt men puddle " and work as they like, if they pleaſe not thee well, " they ſhall not have meikle to the fore when they die.

5. Kathrine Spens deponed, that ſhe heard her ſay to him, " Common thief, I have hindered thee from many ill turns " doing both to ſhips and boats."

6. Marion Meaſon deponed, that ſhe heard her ſay, " Common " thief, mony ill turn have I hindered thee from doing thir " thretty years; mony ſhips and boats has thou put down: " and when I would have halden the ſtring to have ſaved " one man, thou wald not."

7. Iſobel

7. Iſobel Muriſon deponed, that ſhe heard her ſay to him, "Thief, thief, I have keeped thee from doing many ill "turnes. Thou has now laid the woman's ſong."

September 24th, 1633.

8. Compeared Janet Allan, relict of umquhile John Duncan fiſher; deponed, that Aliſon Dick came in upon a certain time to her houſe, when ſhe was lying in of a bairn, and craved ſome four bakes; and ſhe denying to give her any, the ſaid Aliſon ſaid, Your bairns ſhall beg yet, (as they do). And her huſband being angry at her, reproved her; and ſhe abuſed him in language; and when he ſtrak her, ſhe ſaid that ſhe ſhould cauſe him rue it; and ſhe hoped to ſee the powarts bigg in his hair; and within half a-year, he was caſten away, and his boat, and periſhed.

9. Janet Sauders, daughter-in-law to the ſaid William Coke, and Aliſon Dick deponed, that William Coke came in to her; and ſhe being weeping, he demanded the cauſe of it, ſhe anſwered it was for her huſband. The ſaid William ſaid, What ails thee? Thou wilt get thy gudman again; but ye will get him both naked and bare: and whereas there was no word of him for a long time before, he came home within two days thereafter, naked and bare as he ſaid; the ſhip wherein he was being caſten away.

4, 10. Jean Adamſon deponed, that when her gudman ſailed with David Robertſon, the ſaid David having ſent him home with a ſhip to come for Scotland, there was a long time that there was no word of that ſhip; ſo that David Robertſon coming home, and the other ſhip not come, nor no word from her, he ſaid he would never ſee her. The ſaid Aliſon Dick came in to her, (ſhe with her bairns being weeping,) and ſaid, What ails ye Jean to weep? She anſwered, We have all good cauſe to weep for my huſband,

huſband, whom we will never ſee more. The ſaid Aliſon ſaid, hold your tongue, your gudman and all the company are well enough; they are in Norway loading their ſhip with timber to come home; they will be here ſhortly: and ſo it fell out in every point as ſhe ſaid.

5, 11. Kathrine Spens deponed, that William Coke came in to her, after that his wife had ſpoken ſo much evil to him, and ſaid, Kathrine, my wife has ſpoken meikle ill of me this day, but I ſaid nothing to her again. If I had ſpoken two words to her the laſt time ſhe was in the ſteeple, ſhe would never have gotten out of it.

Minutes of 24th September, Ordains Mr James Miller to ride to Preſton, for the man that tries the witches. The expence to be paid by the Town and Seſſion.

October 8th.

12. Compeared Iſobel Hay, ſpouſe to Alexander Law, againſt Aliſon Dick, who being ſworn, deponed, that ſhe having come in to her houſe, her huſband being newly ſailed, ſhe craved ſome money of her, which ſhe refuſed, and boaſted her. The ſaid Aliſon ſaid, It ſhall gang wair geats; and that ſame voyage, her huſband had great loſs. And thereafter, the ſaid Aliſon came in to her houſe, ſhe being furth, and took her ſiſter by the hand, and ſince that time, the maiden had never been in her right wits.

13. William Bervie declaired, that Robert Whyt having once ſtricken William Coke, Aliſon Dick his wife, came to the ſaid Robert, and ſaid, Wherefore have ye ſtricken my huſband? I ſhall cauſe you rue it. The ſaid Robert replying, What ſayeſt thou? I ſhall give you as much—you witch. She anſwered, "Witches take the wit and the "grace

"grace from you: and that ſame night, he was bereft of "his wits."

14. Janet Whyt, daughter to the ſaid Robert, compearing, affirmed the ſaid dittay to be true upon her oath. And added, that ſhe went to the ſaid Aliſon, and reproved her, laying the wyt of her father's ſickneſs upon her. Let him pay me then, and he will be better; but if he pay me not, he will be worſe. For there is none that does me wrong, but I go to my god and complains upon them; and within 24 hours, I will get a mends of them. The ſaid Janet Whyt declared, that Aliſon Dick ſaid to her ſervant, Agnes Fairlie, I have gotten a grip of your gudwife's thigh; I ſhall get a grip of her leg next; the ſaid Janet having burnt her thigh before with lint: and thereafter ſhe has taken ſuch a pain in her leg, that ſhe can get no remedy
15. for it. Whilk the ſaid Agnes Fairlie deponed, upon her great oath to be true.

Aliſon Dick herſelf declared, that David Paterſon, ſkipper, having ſtruck William Coke her huſband, and drawn him by the feet, and compelled him to bear his gear aboard, the ſaid William curſed the ſaid David, and that voyage he was taken by the Dunkirkers. Alſo, at another time thereafter, he compelled him to bear his gear aboard, and a captain's who was with him: and when the captain would have paid him, the ſaid David would not ſuffer him; but he himſelf gave him what he liked. The ſaid William curſed the ſaid David very vehemently: and at that time he himſelf periſhed, his ſhip, and all his company, except two or three. Alſo ſhe declared, that when his own ſon ſailed in David Whyt's ſhip, and gave not his father his bonnallie, the ſaid William ſaid, What? Is he ſailed and given me nothing? The devil be with him:— if ever he come home again, he ſhall come home naked

and bare: and ſo it fell out. For John Whyt, who had that ſhip freighted to Norway, and another wherein himſelf was, declared, that they had very foul weather; and the ſhip wherein the ſaid young William Coke was periſhed; and he ſaved all the men in the ſhip, wherein he was himſelf. And albiet the ſtorm increaſed two days before the periſhing of the ſaid ſhip, and ſix days after; yet, the two hours ſpace in the which they were ſaving the men, it was ſo calm in that part of the ſea, that they rowed from one ſhip to the other, with two oars; and the ſea was all troubleſome about them. And the ſaid William Coke the younger, was the firſt man that came a ſhipboard. 17.

Paction.—The ſame day, Aliſon Dick being demanded by Mr James Simſon Miniſter, when, and how ſhe fell in covenant with the devil; ſhe anſwered, her huſband mony times urged her, and ſhe yielded only two or three years ſince. The manner was thus: he gave her, ſoul and body, quick and quidder full to the devil, and bade her do ſo. But ſhe in her heart ſaid, God guide me. And then ſhe ſaid to him, I ſhall do any thing that ye bid me: and ſo ſhe gave herſelf to the devil in the foreſaid words.—This ſhe confeſſed about four hours at even, freely without compulſion, before Mr James Simſon, miniſter, William Tennent, baillie, Robert French, town clerk, Mr John Malcolme, ſchoolmaſter, William Craig, and me the ſaid Mr James Miller, writer hereof. 18.

October 15th.

16. The which day, compeared Chriſtian Ronaldſon, againſt Aliſon Dick, who, in her preſence being ſworn, deponed, that ſhe having ſet ane houſe to the ſaid Aliſon, and when the

the gudman came home he was angry, and ſaid, he would not have the devil to dwell above him in the cloſe; and he went and ſtruck up the door, and put forth the chimney that ſhe put in it. And thereafter, Aliſon came to the ſaid Chriſtian, and chopped upon her ſhoulder, and ſaid to her, Chriſtie, your gudman is going to ſail, and he has ane ſtock among his hands; but ere long, his ſtock ſhall be as ſhort as mine. And ſo it fell out; for he was caſten away in David Whyt's ſhip, and ſaved nothing.

October 22.

17. Compeared Merjory Marſhall againſt Aliſon Dick, who being ſworn, deponed, that Aliſon having brought her gudman's cloaths once from the Caſtle-haven, ſhe offered her 12d for her labour, who would not have it; and ſhe ſaid to her, Aliſon, there is not many of them. She anſwered, they ſhall be fewer the next time: and the next voyage, he was caſt away in David Whyt's ſhip.

18. Compeared alſo Kathrine Wilſon, who being ſworn, deponed, that ſhe and Janet Whyt being ſliding together, Aliſon Dick came to them, and aſked ſilver from Janet Whyt, who would give her none, but fled her company into the ſaid Kathrine's houſe, and ſhe followed, and ſhe gave her a piece bread, and Janet Whyt bade her give her a plack alſo, and ſhe ſhould pay her again. And when ſhe got it, ſhe ſaid, is this all that ſhe gives me? If ſhe had given me a groat, it would have vantaged her a thouſand punds. This is your doing, evil tidings come upon you. And ſhe went down the cloſs, and piſſed at their meal-cellar door; and after that, they had never meal in that cellar, (they being meal-makers). And thereafter they bought a horſe at 40 lib.; and the horſe never car-

ried a load to them but two, but died in the *butts, louping to death*, ſo that every body ſaid that he was witched.

October 29th.

19. Euphen Boſwell being ſworn, deponed, that her gudman being to ſail to the Eaſt country, loaden with ſalt, the ſaid Aliſon Dick having born ſome of the ſalt aboard, ſhe came to her and craved money from her, who gave her meat; but would give her no money, ſaying to her, Aliſon, my gudman has paid you himſelf, and therefore, I will give you nothing. She replied, Will ye give me nothing? I hope in God, it will be better ſharp (cheaper) ſold nor it was bought: and ſo it fell out; for the ſhip ſailed upon the morn; and the day after that, ſhe ſank, ſalt and all, except the men, who were ſaved by another ſhip that was near by them.

20. Thomas Muſtard being ſworn, deponed, that James Wilſon going once to ſail, Aliſon Dick came to him, and deſyred ſilver from him, he would give her none; ſhe abuſed him with language, and he ſtruck her; ſhe ſaid to him, that that hand ſhould do him little good that voyage: and within two days after, his hand ſwelled as great as a pint-ſtoup, ſo that he could get little or nothing done with it. The next time alſo when he was to ſail, the ſaid Aliſon went betwixt him and the boat; and he ſaid, Yon ſame witch thief is going betwixt me and the boat; I muſt have blood of her: and he went and ſtruck her, and bled her, and ſhe curſed him and banned him; and that ſame voyage, he being in Caithneſs, ſtanding upon the ſhore, cleithing a tow, and a boy with him, the ſea came and took him away, and he died; and the boy was well enough.

Deſires

Deſires Mr Robert Douglas to go to the Archbiſhop with this proceſs, to get his approbation thereto, who takes upon him to do the ſame.

Minute of November 19th.—5s given for a load of coals to Aliſon Dick; 14s. for her entertainment this week bygone, being this day, with her huſband William Coke, burnt for witchcraft.

In the Minute of 17th December, there is a particular Account of the Town and Seſſion's extraordinary Deburſements for WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK, Witches.

In primis.—To Mr James Miller, when he went to Preſtowne for a man to try them, 47s.	L.	2	7
Item.—To the man of Culroſs, (the executioner,) when he went away the firſt time, 12s. - -		0	12
Item.—For coals for the witches, 24s. -		1	4
Item.—In purchaſing the commiſſion, -		9	3
Item.—For one to go to Finmouth for the laird to ſit upon their aſſiſe as judge,		0	6
Item.—For harden to be jumps to them, -		3	10
Item.—For making of them, - -		0	8
- - -			
Summa for the Kirk's part	L.	17	10 Scots.

The

The Town's part of Expences Deburſed extraordinarily upon WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK.

In primis.—For ten loads of coals to burn them, 5 merks, - -	L. 3	6	8
Item.—For a tar barrel, 14s. - -	0	14	0
Item.—For towes, - - -	0	6	0
Item.—To him that brought the executioner,	2	18	0
Item.—To the executioner for his pains,	8	14	0
Item.—For his expences here, -	0	16	4
Item.—For one to go to Finmouth for the laird, - - -	0	6	0

Summa Town part, L. 17 1 Scots.
Both, L. 34 11
Or L. 2 17 7 ſter.

END OF VOLUME EIGHTEENTH.

ERRATA.

(In the Accounts of Kippen, Bo-neſs, and Perth.)

Page 332 line ult, inſert the number 1799.
336 line 16, *for* county, *read* the country.
—— line 21, *read* the years.
343 line 7, *for* Dutch *read* Tron.
425 line 25, *for* proprietor and ſuperior, *read* proprietor or ſuperior.
433 line 24, *for* alſo a good veſſel, *read* all good veſſels.
437 line 12, *for* 7 pence halfpenny per cent, *read* $7\frac{1}{2}$ p. c.
492 line 22, 23, *for* after Veſpaſian who had ſent, *read* after Veſpaſian had ſent.
494 line 19, *for* Regam, *read* Regan.
503 line 8, *for* change of Perth, *read* change of the ſituation of Perth.
504 line 19, *for* Provoſt, *read* Provoſts.
505 lines 1, and 8, *for* Valliams, *read* Valvines.
508 line 10, *for* Thone, *read* Thor.
518 line 16, *for* Whittel, *read* Whittet.
527 line 8, dele made.
532 line 15, *for* 2300, *read* 3200.
539 line 5, *for* "theſe will probably form at laſt a new town, on the "ground of the Blackfriars," *read* "there will probably "be the addition of what may be called a new town, on "the ground of the Blackfriars."

*** *The Binder will take notice of the Cancelled Pages, Kirkaldy Pariſh.*

